Shojo Beat Manga

BABY & Me™

Story & Art by

Marimo Ragawa

2

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Vol. 2

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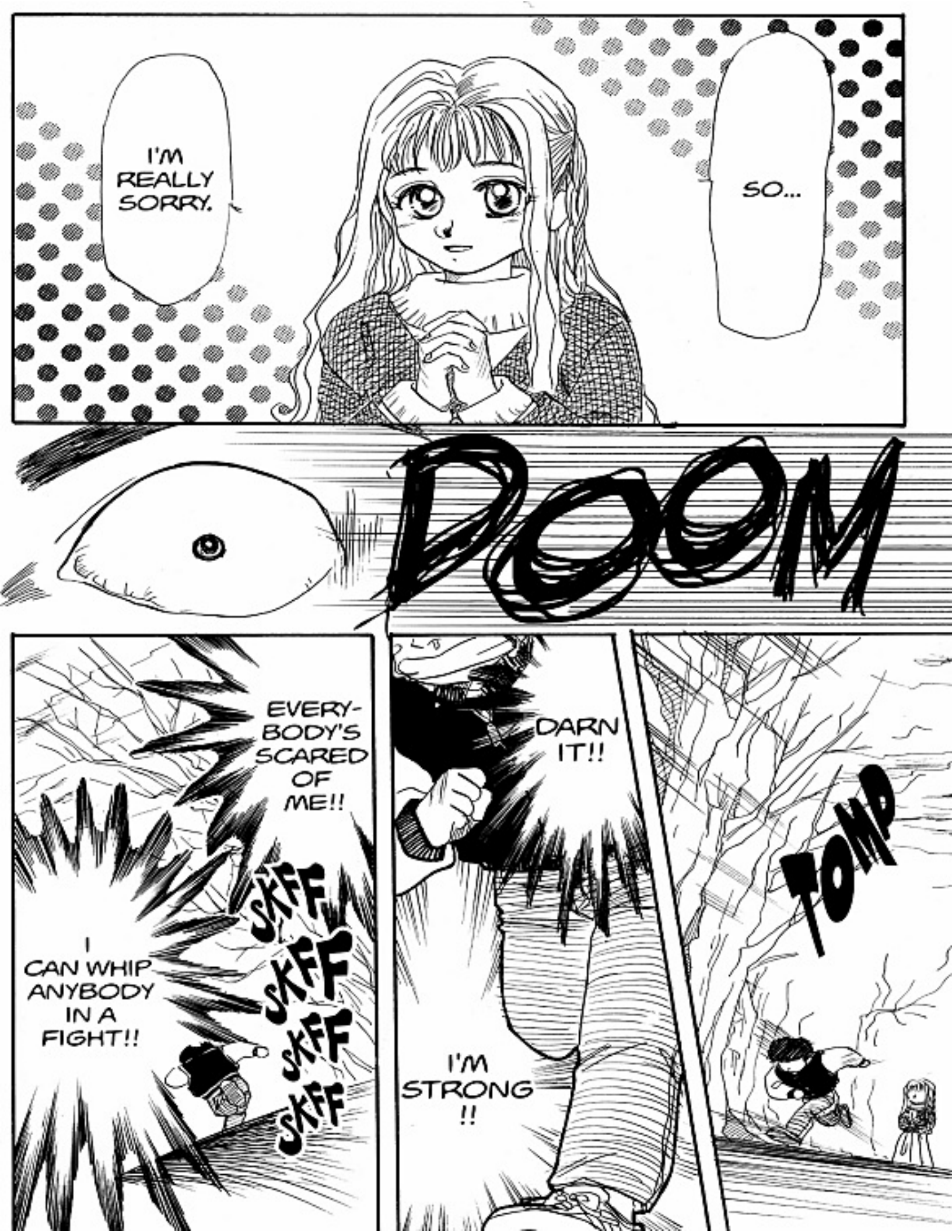
Table of Contents

Chapter Six	3
Chapter Seven	33
Chapter Eight	64
Chapter Nine	99
Chapter Ten	129
Time Limit	159
Bonus Pages	189

BABY & Me

CHAPTER 6


I'M REALLY SORRY.
SO...
DOOM
EVERY-BODY'S SCARED OF ME!!
I CAN WHIP ANYBODY IN A FIGHT!!
SKFF
SKFF
SKFF
SKFF
DARN IT!!
I'M STRONG !!
TOMP

KTNK
DARN YOU! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS...
TAKUYA ENOKI!!
WHAT'S THIS?
HEY...
LETTER OF MISFORTUNE
GASP

HMPH...
EVERY-BODY'S BUSY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR EXCEPT THIS GUY.
SHEESH...
THAT'S THE FIFTH ONE SINCE WINTER BREAK STARTED.
SENDING PEOPLE LETTERS OF MIS-FORTUNE...
HOW CHILD-ISH CAN YOU GET?
ANYWAY, FORGET ABOUT IT.
I'LL MAKE BREAK-FAST.
FWUP
GOO...
SCRATCH
TUP
TUP
BWAZA... GO PEE-PEE...

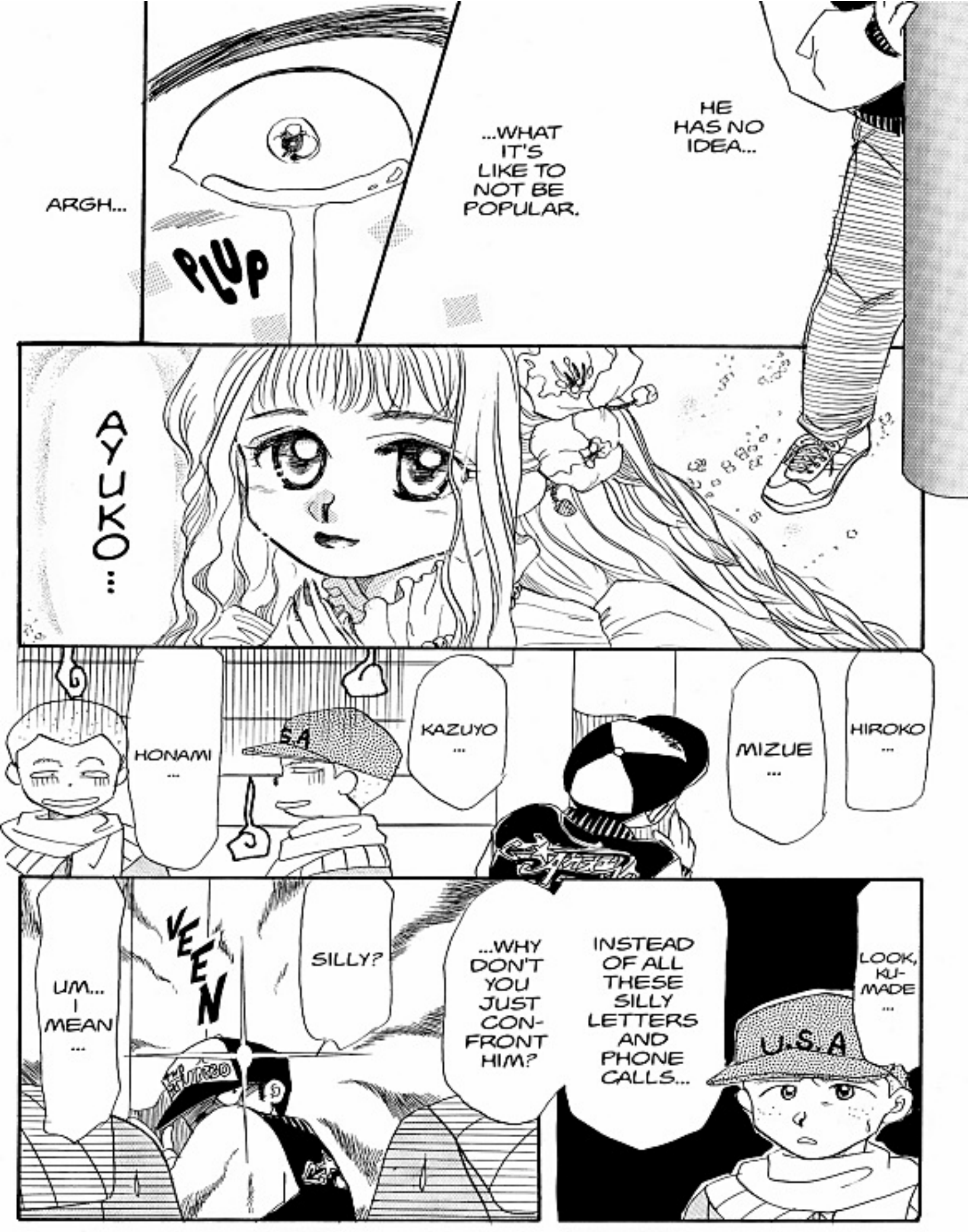
SWIP
TUP
LET'S GO POTTY, MINORU.
OKAY.
YAWN
AAAH!
WA...
GYAAH
WHUMP
LOOKS LIKE THAT LETTER OF MIS-FORTUNE IS WORKING.
...

...THERE'S ONLY ONE GUY WHO'D SINK THAT LOW.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
IT'S OBVIOUS, TAKUYA.
THIS IS GETTING CREEPY.
BUT WHO'S SENDING THEM?
SLURP
TAMADATE.
It's not tea, it's coffee.
HELLO!
TAMADATE?
SLURRP
...
YOU'D BEEN PICKING ON HIM, GON.
HE'S THE ONE WHO WROTE "STUPID" ON MY DESK!
THINK ABOUT IT!
TAMADATE HAS NO MOTIVE TO DO IT.

LEMME HANDLE THIS.
IT COULD BE ANOTHER HANG-UP!! WE'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF THEM LATELY.
GON...
RING
RING
WHAT?!
KLIK
UH...
WHO IS IT?
...
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT IF YOU DON'T CUT IT OUT, I'M GONNA BEAT YOU UP!!
TADASHI?! JUST AS I THOUGHT, YOU'RE OVER AT TAKUYA'S!!

GEEZ... THAT WAS TEN TIMES WORSE THAN A HANG-UP.
SEE YOU.
...
M-MOM?
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE! THERE'S WORK TO DO AT THE STORE! COME HOME RIGHT NOW!!
?!
SOMEBODY'S WATCHING ME...
...
WHUP
HEY...
WHAT WAS THAT?

BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO'S DOING IT OR WHY...
AW, C'MON ...
THIS IS NO WAY TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR.
THROB THROB THROB
HMPH. THIS IS STARTING TO MAKE ME MAD.
I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM SUF-FER!
KK
I'LL MAKE HIM...
...SUFFER.
...LET'S STOP DOING THIS...
GRRR
U.S.A
KUMADE!!
NO! HE...HE'S COCKY... OR SOME-THING.
N-NOT THAT I LIKE THE GUY OR ANYTHING!!
U.S.A
YEEN


ARGH...
PLUP
...WHAT IT'S LIKE TO NOT BE POPULAR.
HE HAS NO IDEA...
AYUKO...
HONAMI ...
KAZUYO ...
MIZUE ...
HIROKO ...
UM... I MEAN ...
SILLY?
...WHY DON'T YOU JUST CONFRONT HIM?
INSTEAD OF ALL THESE SILLY LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS...
LOOK, KU-MADE ...
U.S.A

STARE
GASP
KUMADE!!
I'M SORRY!! AAAH!!
KRAK
WHAM
POW
THAT'S ENOKI'S LITTLE BROTHER !!
HEY...
STARE
BA-BUMP
WAAAAH
SMIRK
HEH.

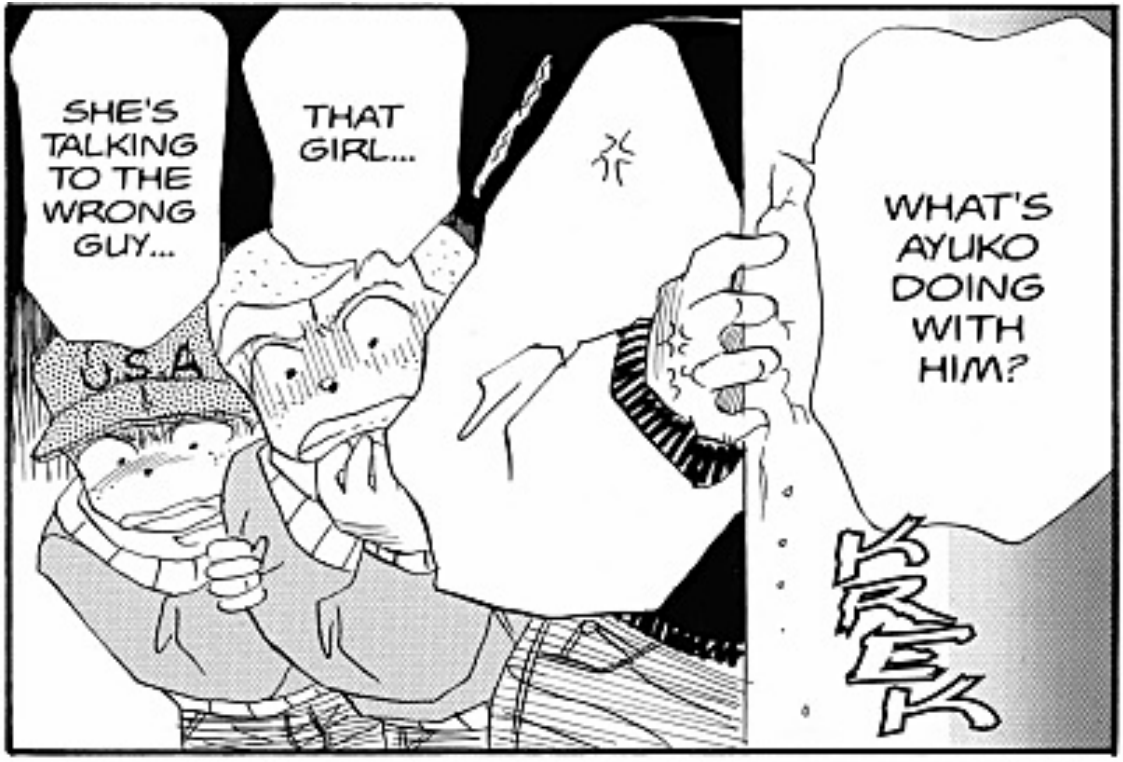
BWAZA!!
SCEH-WEE ...
SCARY?
GWAAH
TOMO
MINORU?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
DARN IT! NOW THEY'RE BOTH TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK STUPID!
THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE PROBABLY JUST SCARED HIM, KUMADE!
YOU LOOK SCARY ENOUGH WITHOUT MAKING FACES!
THEN THAT MEANS...?
HE WON'T STOP NO MATTER WHAT WE SAY.
I WANT TO HAVE FUN OVER WINTER BREAK.
WE NEED THE HELP OF A GIRL!
I DON'T WANT TO KEEP WASTING MY TIME ON THIS, DAY AFTER DAY.
OH.
ANOTHER ONE...
LETTER OF MISFORTUNE
PLUNK

TAKUYA ...
UM...
ENOUGH ALREADY.
GRRR
MAN...
I'VE BEEN DOING SOME-THING BAD.
I'M SORRY...
OF COURSE IT BOTHERS ME!!
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME!
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BOTHER YOU SO MUCH.
WHAT?! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE BEHIND THIS!
HUH?
SOME-THING BAD?
HUH?

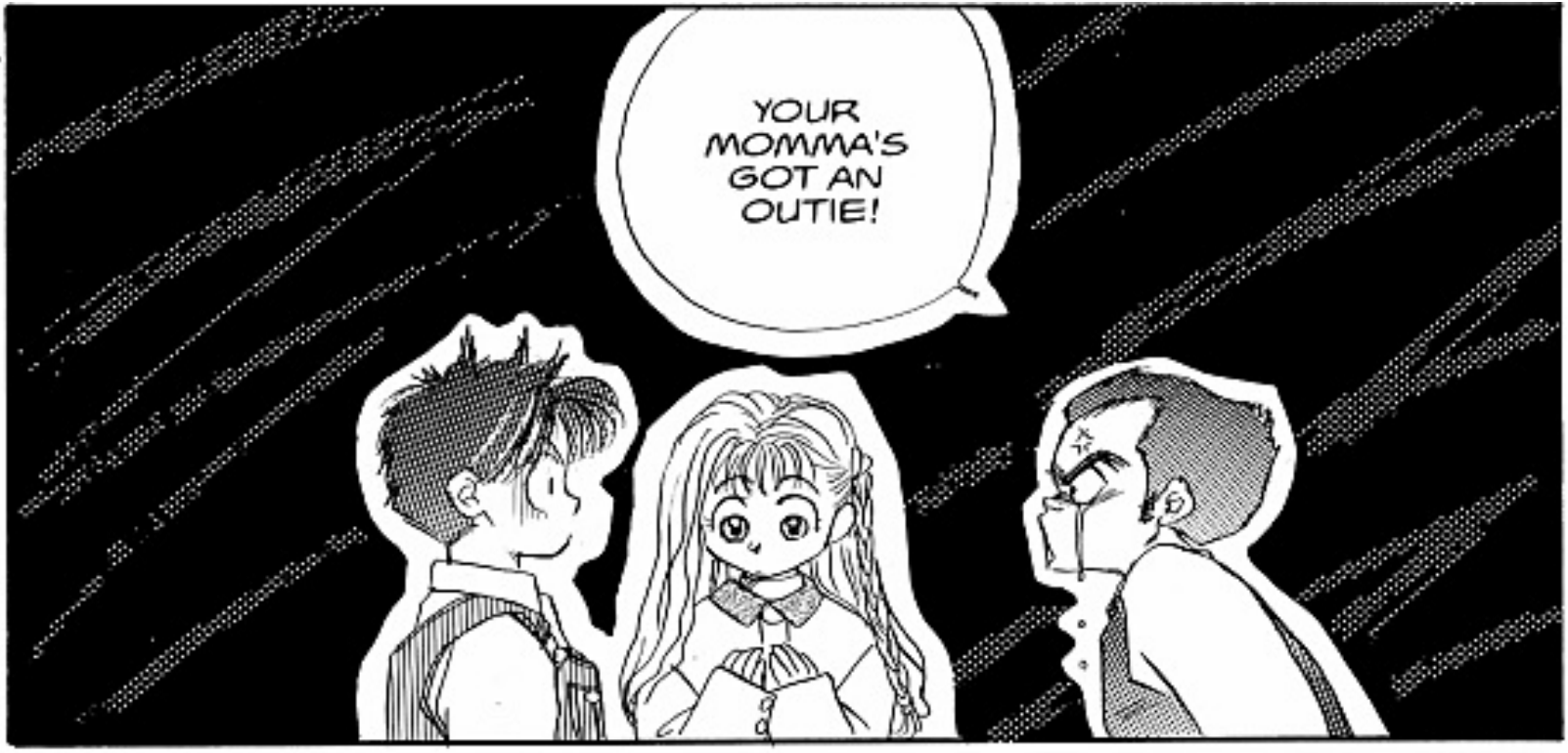
I'M AYUKO NAKANISHI FROM CLASS 5-1, NEXT DOOR.
NO, TELL ME WHY...
YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ME AND YOU DON'T KNOW MY NAME?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'VE BEEN ON MY MIND ALL DAY.
O-OKAY. I GUESS I SHOULD START BY TELLING YOU MY NAME...
FRUSTRATED
WELL? TALK!!
WHAP
STOP. I HAVE TO FINISH...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO STOP...
WITH THE LETTERS OF MISFORTUNE...

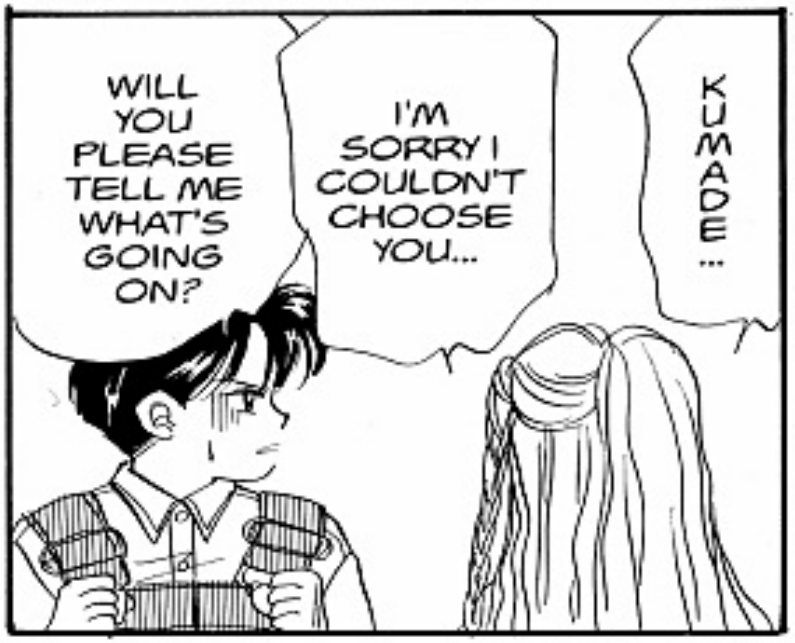
THE 3-3-7 CHEER
[MUSIC]

MY SECOND VOLUME IS FINALLY OUT! THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION! YOUR LETTERS HAVE TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT THE POWER OF COMICS. THE MANUSCRIPTS FOR ALL OF THE CHAPTERS IN THIS VOLUME WERE SO LATE THAT MY EDITOR HAD TO COME AND PICK THEM UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. I WAS SO STRESSED OUT, I ACTUALLY THREW UP. I CRIED GIANT TEARS. SO MY MANUSCRIPT WAS A MESS. IT WAS REALLY DISGUSTING. THEN, WHEN I ASKED FOR THE SCRIPT BACK IN ORDER TO MAKE SOME CORRECTIONS, THE EDITOR HAD WRITTEN A NOTE FOR THE PRINTERS ON THE ENVELOPE WITH A RED MAGIC MARKER, "EXTREMELY URGENT," IN HUGE LETTERS. EVEN THOUGH I KNEW I'D CAUSED MY EDITOR A LOT OF HEADACHES, I COULDN'T HELP LAUGHING.

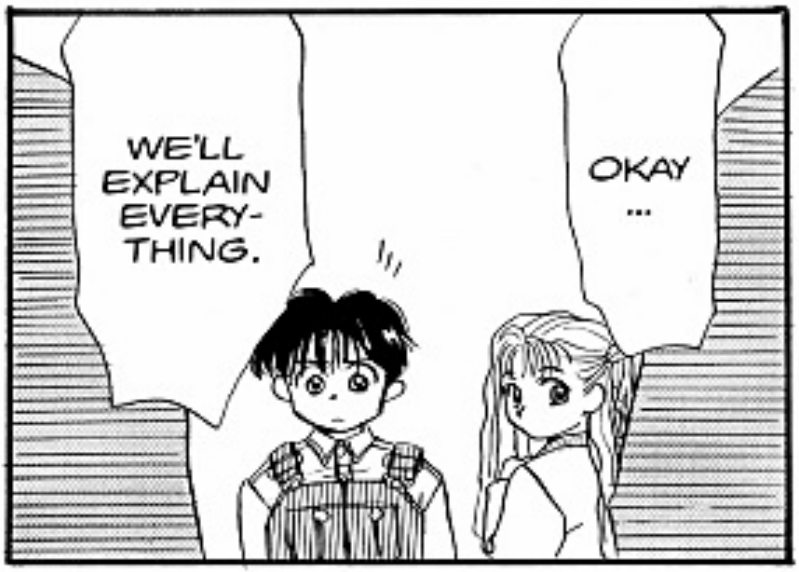


GEEZ... HE'S SCARY-LOOKING...
PLUP
PLUP
HUH?
DON'T FIGHT OVER ME!!
NO!
THIS COMIC BOOK IS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR GIRLS.
DO YOU REALLY LIKE HIM?
AYUKO...
UGH...MY HEAD'S SPINNING...
WHUP
WHUP
DON'T WORRY, I'LL HANDLE IT!!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?!
YOUR ...
Y...


YOUR MOMMA'S GOT AN OUTIE!


KUMADE...
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T CHOOSE YOU...
WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

FWUMP


OKAY...
WE'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING.

WHUP
WHUP
WHAAAAH
ALIMESA

KUMADE FALLS IN LOVE A LOT.
THE TRUTH IS...
I'M KUMADE'S FRIEND NUMBER TWO, LITTLE BROTHER MURATA. WE'RE TWINS.
I'M KUMADE'S FRIEND NUMBER ONE, BIG BROTHER MURATA.
U.S.A
WHEN HE ASKS THEM WHY, MOST OF 'EM SAY IT'S BECAUSE THEY LIKE SOMEBODY ELSE.
BUT GIRLS USUALLY REJECT HIM 'CAUSE OF THE WAY HE LOOKS.
AYUKO TOLD KUMADE THAT SHE LIKED YOU, ENOKI.
...ENOKI!
PLEASE DON'T EXPOSE ME.
SO...
...FUJII, MORIGU-CHI, AND...
AND WHEN HE ASKS THEM WHO, IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME NAMES...

SO WE TOLD AYUKO THAT YOU TWO WERE FIGHTING OVER HER, AND ASKED HER TO TELL KUMADE TO CUT IT OUT.
WE COULDN'T GET HIM TO STOP.
WAIT A MINUTE...
HEY ...
WHAT ?!
HE WAS THE ONE DOING IT?
KUMADE STARTED HARASSING YOU BECAUSE HIS PRIDE WAS HURT.
YOU USED ME!!
THEN TAKUYA DOESN'T LIKE ME?!!
YOU DID WHAT?!
B-BUT...
U.S.A
JUST REMEMBER ONE THING!!
WHAM
WHAM
STUPID!
JERKS!
WHAM

...BUT HIS HEART IS PURE.
KUMADE MAY BE UGLY...
HMM...
...
I...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
MAYBE THAT'S TRUE...

HUH?
LETTER OF CHALLENGE
I'M GOING TO CHALLENGE TAKUYA ENOKI!!
FWOOM
FWOOM
WHAT'S THAT?
THIS GUY'S HEART IS PURE?
KUMADE, ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
DON'T DO IT.
MAYBE WE CAN TALK IT OUT.
BUT HE SEEMS PRETTY MAD.
WHAT A PAIN...

BUT NONE OF THIS IS ENOKI'S FAULT.
WHAT? YOU THINK I CAN'T TAKE HIM?
IT'S NOT THAT...
WOOOOO
GEEZ, WHAT EYES... I'M HAVING CHEST PAINS!
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
U.S.A
U.S.A
TMP
TMP
SORRY I'M LATE.
WHAT?
UCK ...
HUH?
SO...
HERE HE COMES.

WE JUST HAP-PENED TO MEET UP ON THE WAY.
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
HUH?
WHO ARE THEY, YOUR HELPERS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT ...
I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT YOU.
HE CRIES IF I LEAVE HIM BEHIND.
SCEH-WEE, BWAZA ...
YOU BROUGHT THAT WEIRD LITTLE KID TOO?!
YUK
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'VE GOT NO REA-SON...
YUK
YUK
YUK
WHY?
I HAVE NO REASON TO FIGHT YOU.
WAKE UP AND SMELL REALITY !!
HEH HEH... YOU'RE DREAM-ING.

SAY YOUR PRAYERS, SUCKER!!
SCEH-WEE! MONSSER!! MONKEY!!
SHUT THAT KID UP!
'CAUSE I'VE GOT...
...REASON ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US!
WOOSH
WHAM
WHAM
WILL YOU HOLD ON A SECOND?!
HIS EYES ARE SCARY!!
WHY, YOU!
TWITCH
TWITCH

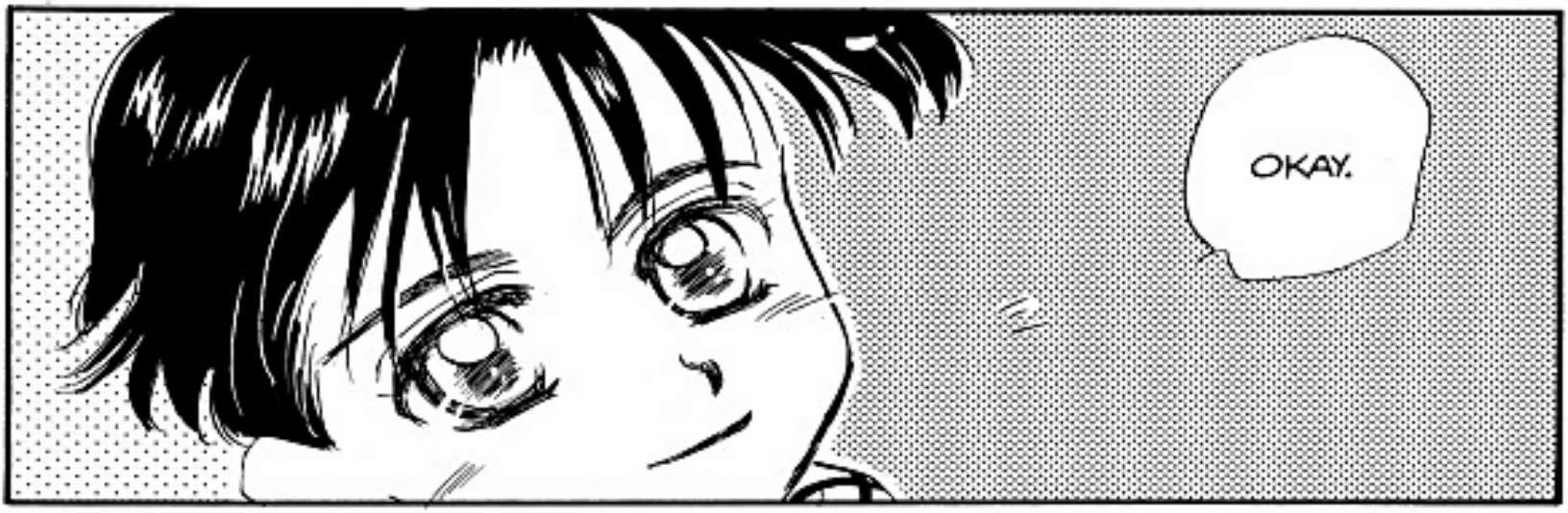
BWAA!!!
GRRR...
...STUBBORN HOTHEAD...
OOF!
HMPH! GET LOST!!
WHUMP
!!
UH-OH
MINORU?
GRAH!!!
WHAP WHAP WHAP
WHAP WHAP WHAP
OWIE...
SOB
SOB

WAP
YOU DON'T EVER TOUCH MY LITTLE BROTHER!!
ACK!
MINORU...

YIKES!

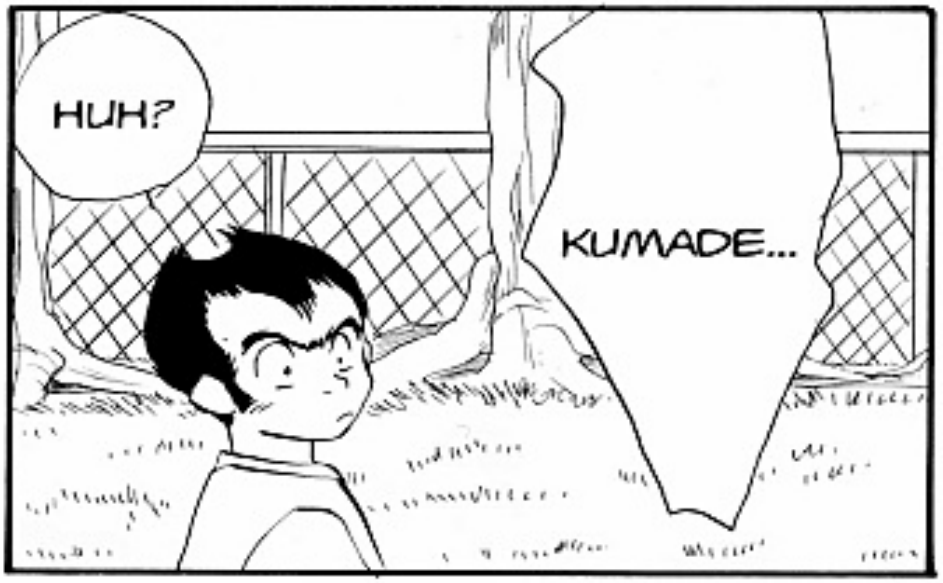
?
?
KOFF
SWUP
TH
LOOK...
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT YOU.
I...
I'M SORRY.
...
ARE YOU OKAY, MINORU?
OKAY...
EARTH

I'M SORRY...
OKAY?


OKAY.

WHAT'RE YOU GUYS CLAPPING FOR?!
KLAP KLAP KLAP
HURRAY! THANK GOODNESS!
U.S.A.

AY... AYUKO...


HUH?
KUMADE...

ER.. YOU DO?
I HATE VIOLENT PEOPLE.
SHAKE
SHAKE
OKAY?
FRIENDS ...
BUT MAYBE THIS WAS PARTLY MY FAULT.
NO, IT'S JUST THAT...
WHAT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE MY FRIEND ?
UM, WELL ...

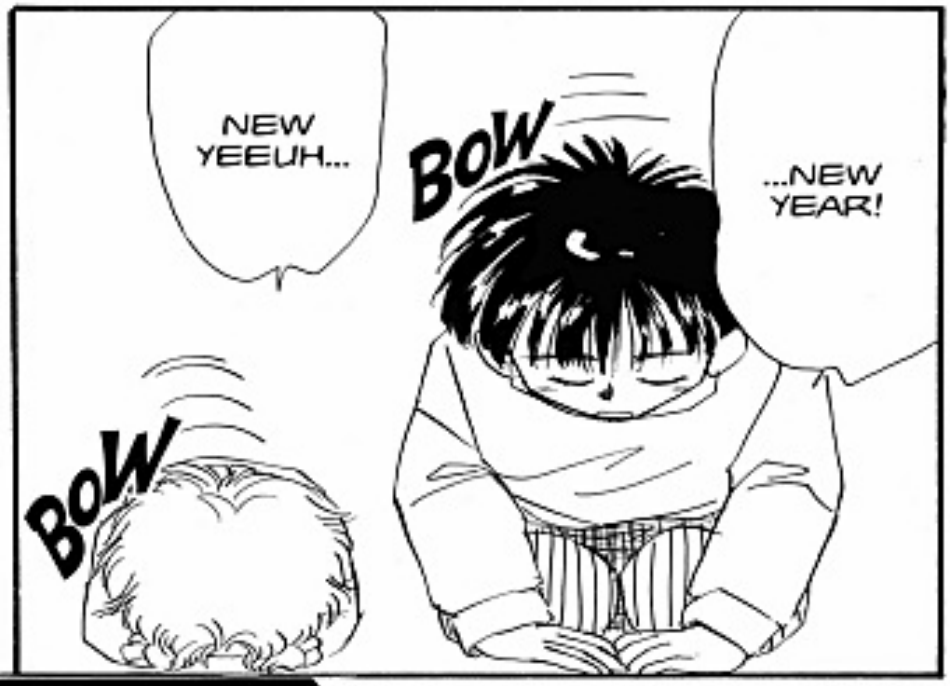
THEY'LL PROBABLY JUST END UP BEING FRIENDS.
WHAT A WASTE! SHE'S WAY TOO PRETTY FOR HIM.
YEAH!!
IT'S JUST NOT FAIR
...I'M SO HAPPY...
...THE LAST DISAS-TER OF THE YEAR.
HMPH. I GUESS THIS WAS...
HOW MANY MORE DAYS...
...UNTIL NEW YEAR'S?
ALL RIGHT.
BWAZA, UP!
REALLY?
WHEN IT COMES TO MINORU, YOU CAN GET PRETTY SCARY YOURSELF, TAKUYA.
THAT KID'S GOT YOU WRAPPED AROUND HIS FINGER, TAKUYA.

NEW YEAR'S

1992 THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY

JANUARY 1
HAPPY...

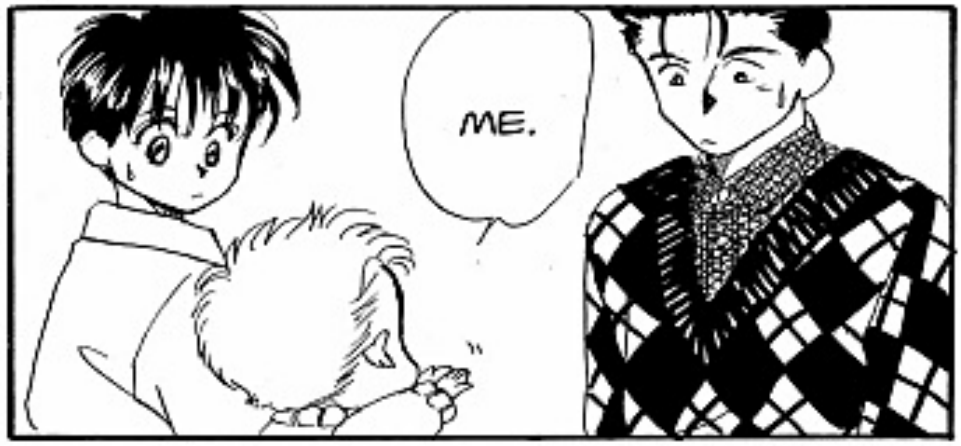
AND...
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU.

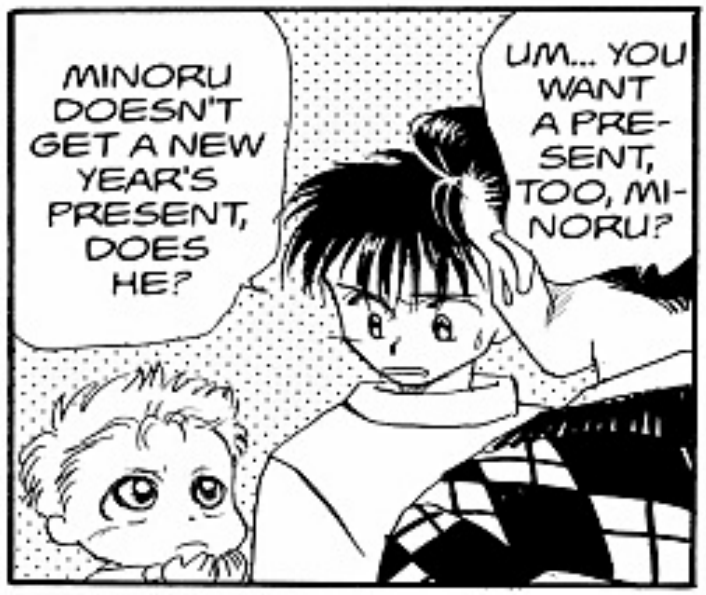

NEW YEEUH...
BOW
...NEW YEAR!
BOW

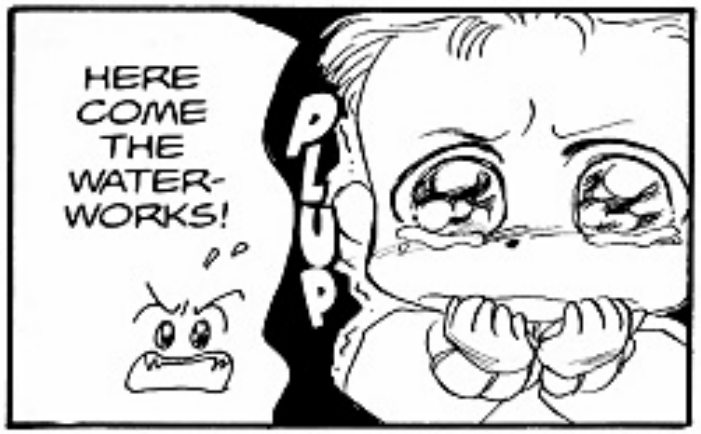
MY NEW YEAR'S PRESENT!
YEAH!
HERE, TAKUYA.

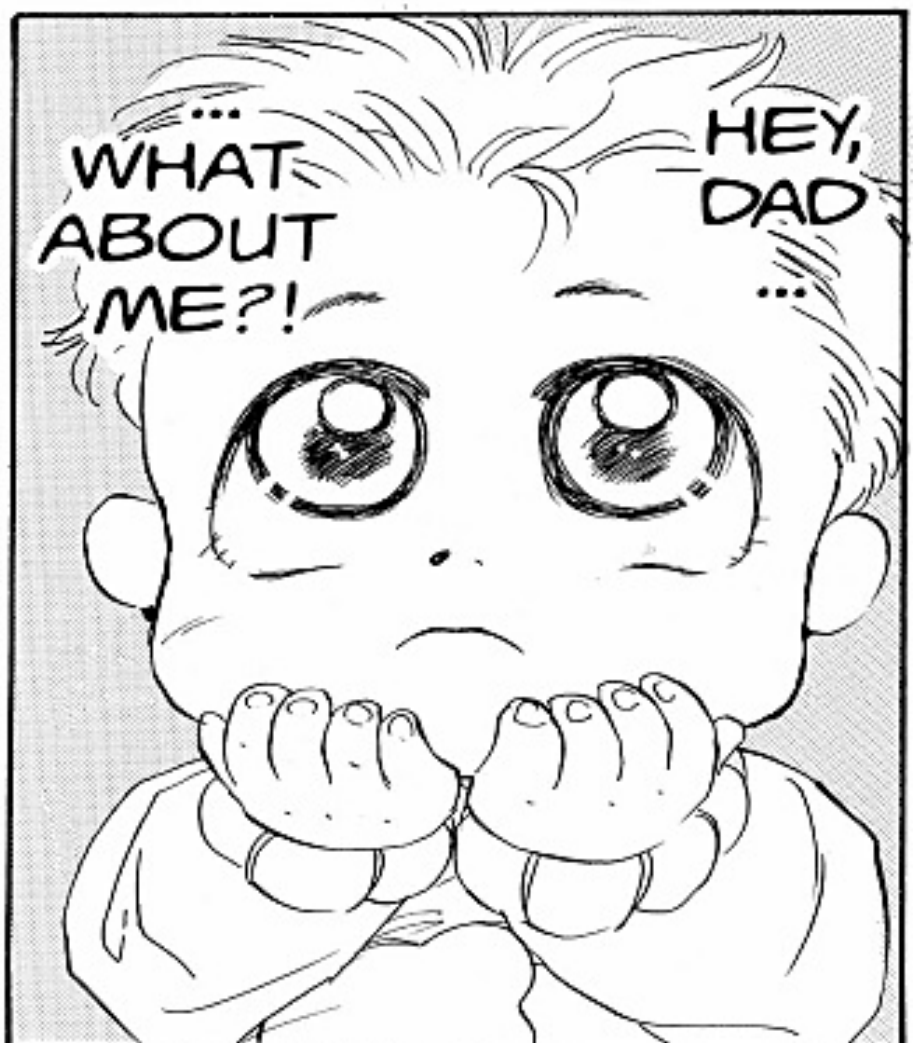
!!
STARE

HEH HEE HEE...
STARE
????


ME.


MINORU DOESN'T GET A NEW YEAR'S PRESENT, DOES HE?
UM... YOU WANT A PRESENT, TOO, MINORU?


HERE COME THE WATER-WORKS!
PLOP

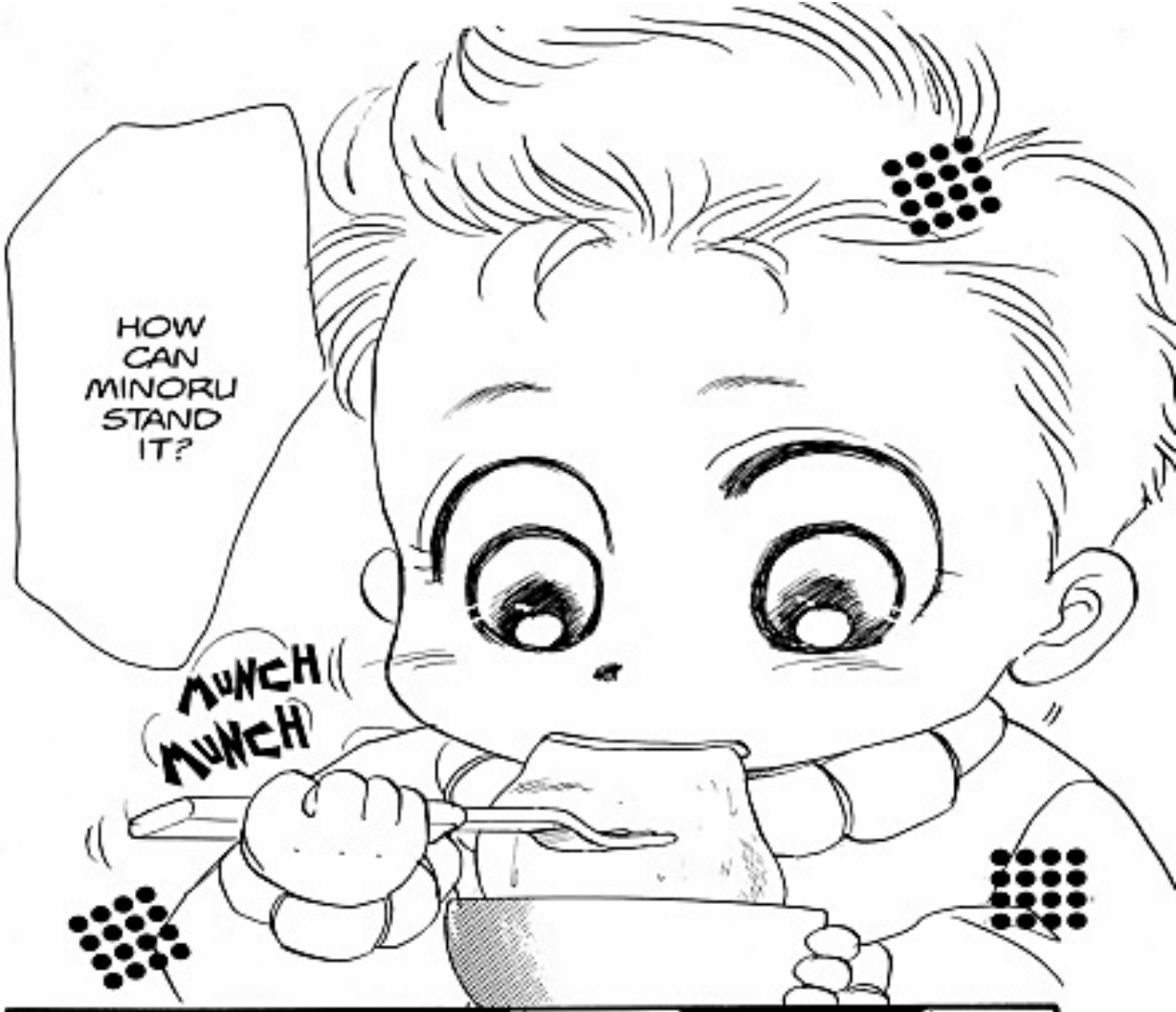

... WHAT ABOUT ME?!
HEY, DAD ...

HERE.
NEW YEAR'S PRESENT
MINORU
YES, MINORU.
NO!
HE ALWAYS HAS TO CRY TO GET HIS WAY.
OH WELL, HE'S FORCED MY HAND!
YEE
HEY!
MINORU?
IT'S FLAVORED SEAWEED.
KRUNCH KRUNCH KRUNCH

SHALL WE GO PRAY AT MEIJI SHRINE AFTER WE EAT?
WHAT?
WON'T IT BE SUPER-CROWDED THERE TODAY?
YES, BUT IT'S KIND OF A TRADITION.
ONE RICE CAKE ...
...OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH FOR MINORU.
MUNCH MUNCH
HE'S EATING LIKE A DOG.
BWAZA, SOME?
OH, OKAY ...
SWEET BLACK BEANS?
PANT PANT
HERE YOU GO.
KLAK
GLUG GLUG

HE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HIS FOOD.
SLURRRRP
H-HOT!!
SIP
NO, THE SOUP'S JUST REALLY HOT...
IS YOUR TONGUE SENSITIVE LIKE A CAT'S?
I BURNED MY TONGUE!
IT'S TOO HOT!!
HUH?
TKTKTK

POPULAR SERIES:
YOSHIZO THE RABBIT
PART 1
RABBITS HAVE NO FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, BUT MY RABBIT, YOSHIZO, CAN COMMUNICATE WITH HIS EYES. IT'S A LITTLE FREAKY.
AHH.
I TRIED TO BATHE WITH HIM ONCE AND HE STARTED KICKING ME. SO I GOT MAD AND LET HIM SWIM IN THE TUB ALONE.
SPLASH
SPLASH
BUT SUDDENLY I NOTICED ...
HEY!
...WAS SINKING!
BLUB BLUB
...THAT YOSHI-ZO...
I PANICKED AND PULLED HIM OUT OF THE WATER.
YOSHIZO!
SPLISH
GASP
GASP
...
GASP
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
WHAT THE HECK?!
GASP
MAYBE I SHOULD THROW HIM BACK IN.
THAT'S WHAT HIS EYES SEEMED TO BE SAYING.
GASP


HOW CAN MINORU STAND IT?
MUNCH MUNCH

!!
AH... AH...
AH...

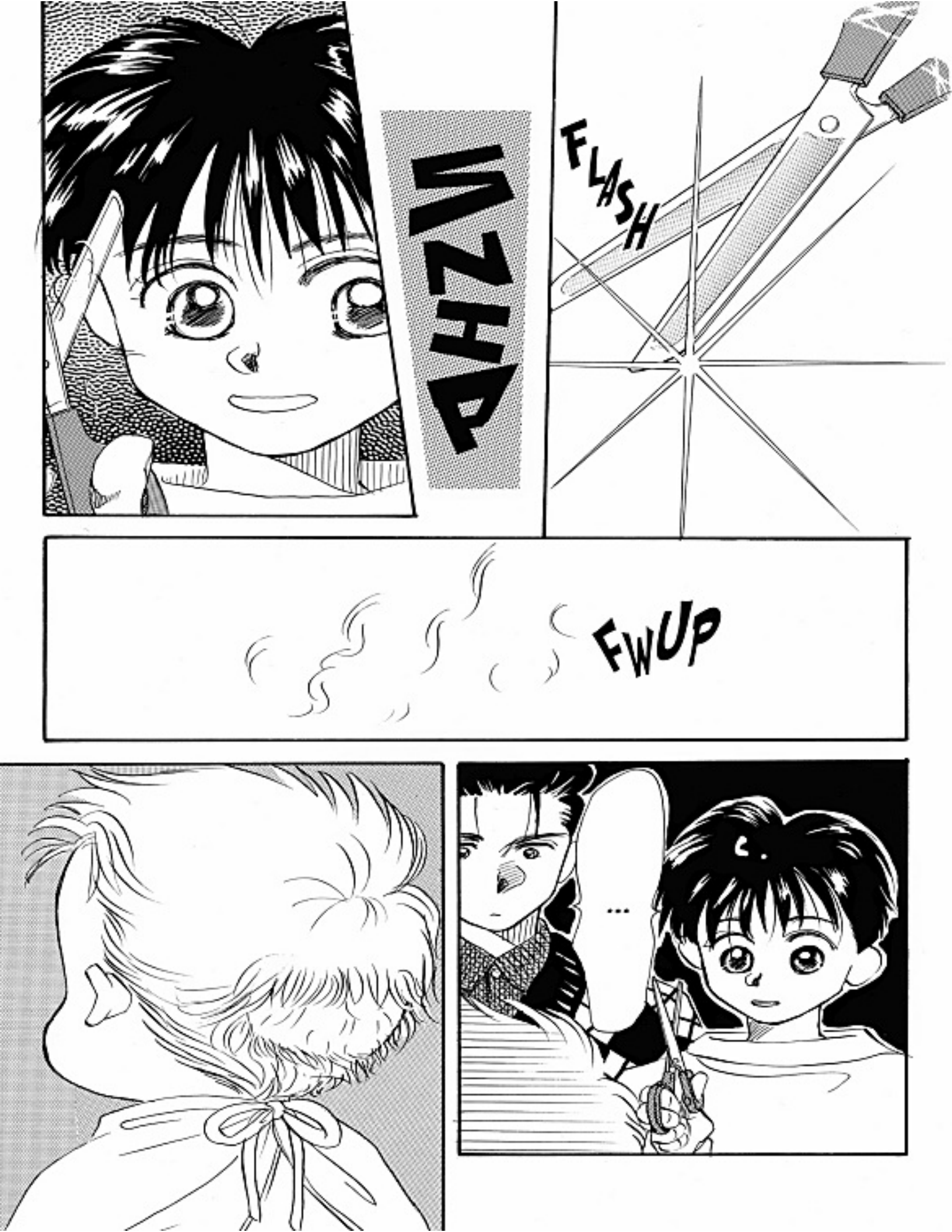
SPLAT

ATCHOO!
WIP

BWAZA!
THERE'S NO GOOD TV ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.
KUK KUK
SWUP
GEEZ, MINORU! DON'T PUT FOOD IN YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO SNEEZE!!
BOO.
SHLUP
HUH?
SPL
AK

HUH?
HUH?
HE'S BEEN DOING THAT A LOT LATELY.
TAKUYA, MINORU FELL DOWN.
MINORU!
YOU CAN'T JUST LIE THERE, YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
THAT'S FUNNY. THE RICE CAKE'S GONE.
WUP WUP
DIDN'T MINORU EAT IT?
HERE.
?
UH-UH

YOU'RE STARTING OUT THE NEW YEAR BADLY!
GOO ...
WOW. HIS HAIR'S SO FINE. THAT RICE CAKE'S REALLY STUCK.
FATHER
TAKUYA
MAYBE I'D BETTER CUT IT OUT.
GLOOP
GOOD IDEA.
I COULD CUT IT OUT WITH SCISSORS.
MAYBE A QUARTER-INCH WOULD BE BETTER?
WHAD-DAYA THINK... HALF AN INCH?
ABOUT LIKE A BUDDHIST MONK'S.
HOW SHORT IS A QUART-ER-INCH?


PAZHP
FLASH
FWUP
...

HEY, MINORU! ♡
YOU LOOK COOL!
...
HERE'S YOUR BEAR CAP!!
DON'T GET UPSET.
BUH-BUH...
SNORT

TO MEIJI SHRINE?
HEH
WELL, SHALL WE GO?
HUH?
YOU'RE RIGHT BACK TO NORMAL.
SEE THAT?
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
HEY, TAKUYA!
OH.
OH...

I REALLY APPRE-CIATE ALL YOU DID FOR TAKUYA LAST YEAR.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
HUH? WHAT?
THIS IS TAKUYA'S DAD.
HMPH
IT'S NO FUN, BUT WE'RE GOING TO THE SHRINE TO PRAY.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HAPPY NEW YEAR, GON.
NO... I'M OLDER THAN I LOOK...
HA HA
YOU'RE SO YOUNG! I FEEL LIKE AN OLD MAN NEXT TO YOU!
SWAK
HA HA HA
OH! WELL, THANK YOU FOR TAKING GOOD CARE OF OUR TADASHI!
HEY, THEY LOOK LIKE THE STAGES OF HUMAN DEVELOP-MENT.
HUH?
HUH?
WHEN THE RAW MATERIALS ARE GOOD, I GUESS THE BY-PRODUCTS ARE GOOD, TOO.

STAGES OF...
...HUMAN DEVEL-OPMENT ?
Down
UP
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MINORU?!
-TADA
SWUP
SNORT.
?
STARE

WOW.
YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE TODAY, HIRO.
SHE ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A GIRL.
...
GLARE
MOM, DAD...
...THAT'S MINORU, HIRO'S BOYFRIEND.
WHAT ?!
SO! THIS IS HIRO'S FIRST LOVE?
A HAND-SOME BOY AND A PRETTY GIRL--THE PERFECT MATCH.
!!
GLARE
GLARE

WUMP
WUMP
OH...
NOT AGAIN.
FWUMP
WAAH!
TMP
...
MINO-RU'S BALD HEAD TOOK HER BY SUR-PRISE.
BOO-HOO
MY BEH!
AAAH!

THAT'S TRUE LOVE.
HMM, SHE LIKES HIM EVEN BETTER NOW.
PAT
GOO ...
PAT
GOO ...
WHAP
TUP TUP TUP
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, TAKUYA?
BY THE WAY...
YAY
MRMR
KAKEEEA KAKEEEA KAKEEEA
HARAJUKU STATION
WOW!
MRMR
YAY

THERE ...
OH ...
EEEEK!!
DAD, MINORU...
WHAT ?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
DON'T GET LOST, TAKUYA.
I WON'T.
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
WHY DOES EVERYONE COME HERE WHEN THEY KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE PACKED?

WAAAH
NOBODY WANTS TO MISS OUT.
I KNOW, BUT...
WELL, SURE...
THERE, THERE ...
WAAAH
UH-OH. HE'S CRYING.
I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE.
THEY'RE IN TROUBLE NOW.
HUH?
THEY'RE WEARING KIMONO AND THEY'RE CARRYING A BABY.
WAAH
WAAH
A-KUN? PEEK-A-BOO!! THERE YOU ARE!!

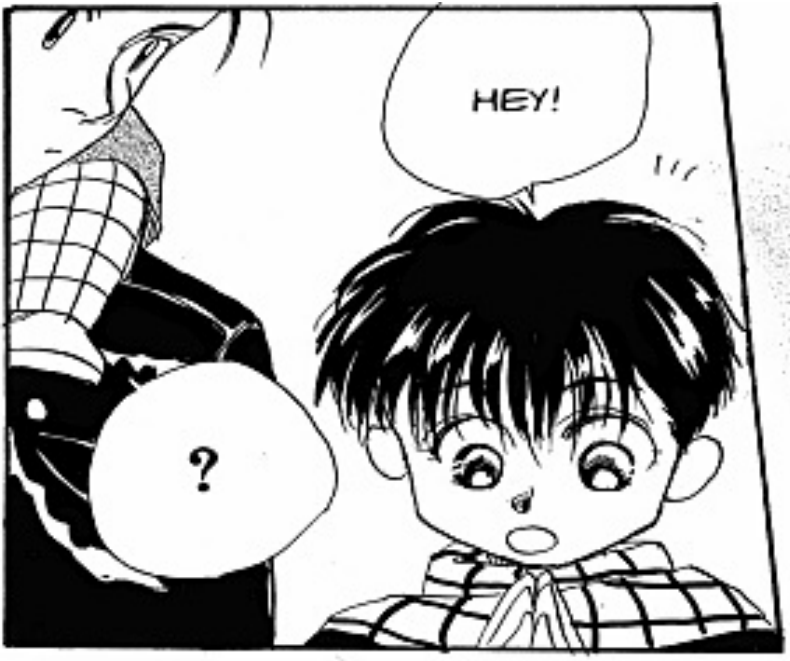
YOU GOT SQUEEZED BY THE CROWD AND STARTED SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF.
OUR KIMONOS STARTED COMING UNDONE...
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, YOUR MOTHER AND I CAME HERE WITH YOU, DRESSED IN KIMONOS.
IT WAS A DISASTER.
I REMEMBER THAT DAY SO VIVIDLY.
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER COME HERE AGAIN.
I WONDER WHY...

MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
!!
MRMR
MRMR
BWAZA
...
WHUMP
DADDA
...
HEY!
SMILE
SMILE

OH.
HUH?
YOU MEAN THAT KID?
LITTLE CHILDREN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.
DEH, DEH!!
WHERE?
HUH?
HEY, FUJII!
IS THAT YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
MY BROTHER.
HEY!
TAKUYA!?
HOW'S IT GOING?

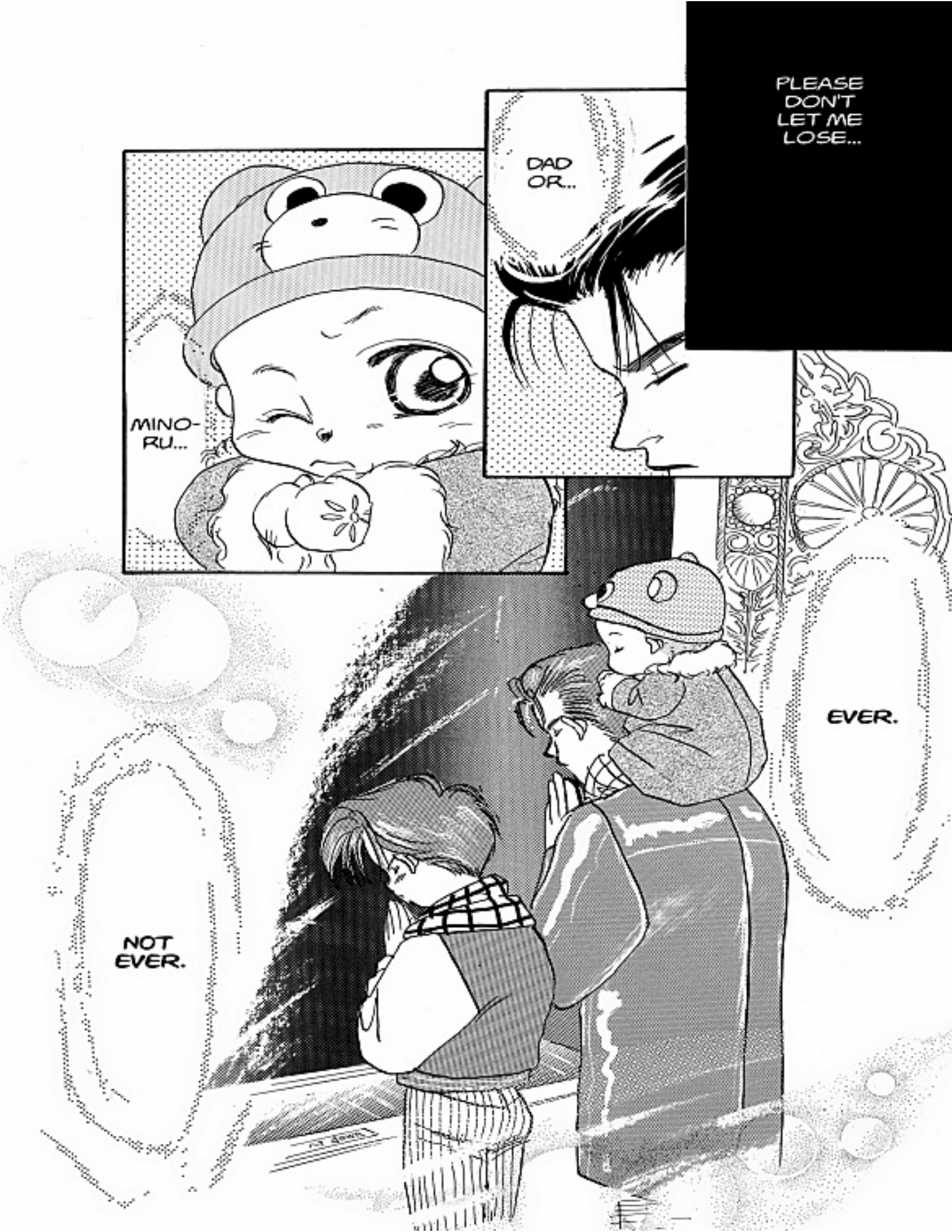
OVER HERE, SIS.
HEY, WHERE IS EVERY-BODY?
WHERE?
DAD, THAT'S FUJII, A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL. HE HAS FIVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
REALLY? THAT'S A BIG FAMILY.
IF YOU GET LOST, JUST LOOK FOR MA-BO!
THEY SEEM TO BE HAVING A HARD TIME.
YEAH ...
WHAT?! WHERE?
GASP
GASP
GASP
HANG IN THERE, TAKUYA ...
DAD... I CAN'T BREATHE ...
OW ...
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
SKWISH
UNH!!

GAMP
WHEW
HAP-
...
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE SUCH AN ORDEAL JUST TO PRAY?
WHY?
GAMP
I'M EX-HAUST-ED.
GAMP
...
KLINK
KLAP KLAP
...
PAFF
PAFF

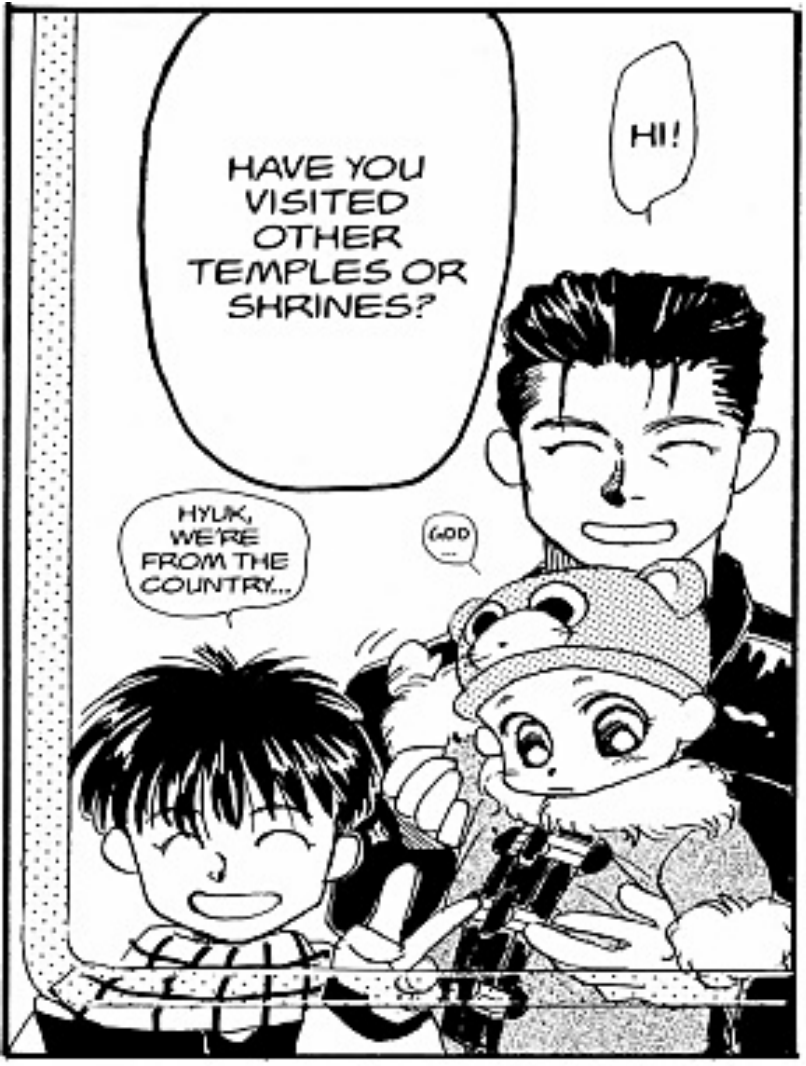

HEY!
?

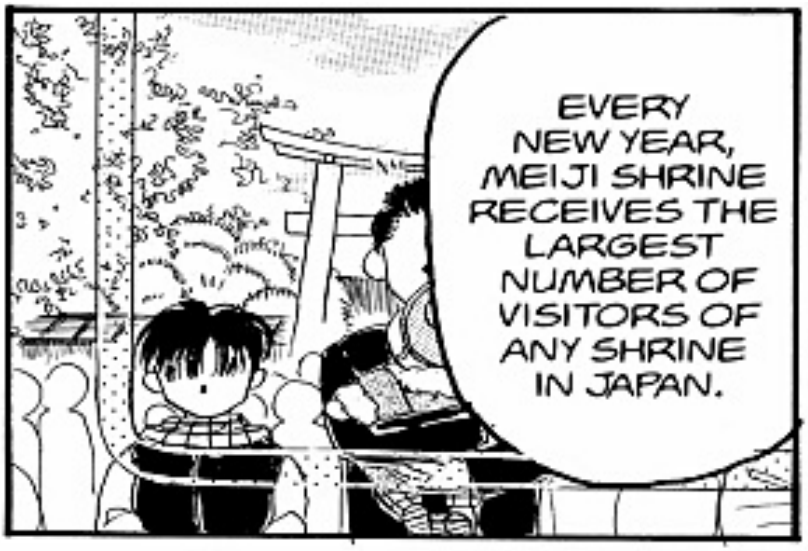
PRAY PRAY
AND PLEASE LET MINORU'S HAIR GROW BACK QUICKLY.

ALL THINGS
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS.

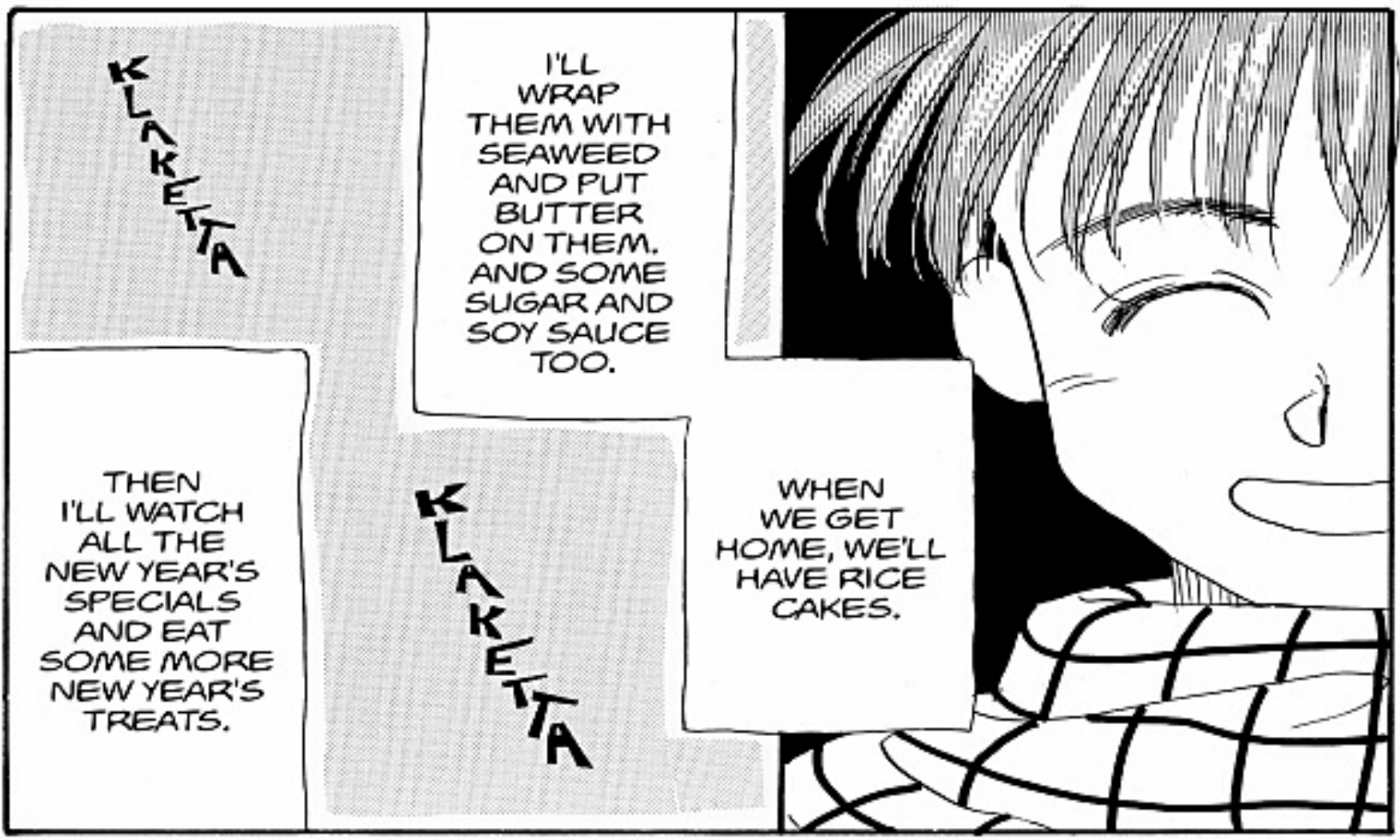

PLEASE DON'T LET ME LOSE...
DAD OR...
MINO-RU...
EVER.
NOT EVER.

OKAY...
IT SAYS, "IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY, TRY AGAIN."
ON THE BACK? OH.
THE MEANING SHOULD BE WRITTEN ON THE BACK.
I'M STANDING HERE IN FRONT OF MEIJI SHRINE...
HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!
A LONG TIME AGO I BOUGHT A FORTUNE.
IT SAID I SHOULDN'T SPEND TIME ADMIRING MY OWN BEAUTY IN THE MIRROR.
HA HA HA...
YACK
MRMR
...AT ALL THE PEOPLE.
JUST LOOK..
YACK
MRMR
YACK


HI!
HAVE YOU VISITED OTHER TEMPLES OR SHRINES?
HYUK, WE'RE FROM THE COUNTRY...
GOD


EVERY NEW YEAR, MEIJI SHRINE RECEIVES THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VISITORS OF ANY SHRINE IN JAPAN.

BUT WITH SO MANY PEOPLE, THINGS CAN GET A LITTLE STRESSFUL.


KLAKETTA
I'LL WRAP THEM WITH SEAWEED AND PUT BUTTER ON THEM. AND SOME SUGAR AND SOY SAUCE TOO.
THEN I'LL WATCH ALL THE NEW YEAR'S SPECIALS AND EAT SOME MORE NEW YEAR'S TREATS.
KLAKETTA
WHEN WE GET HOME, WE'LL HAVE RICE CAKES.

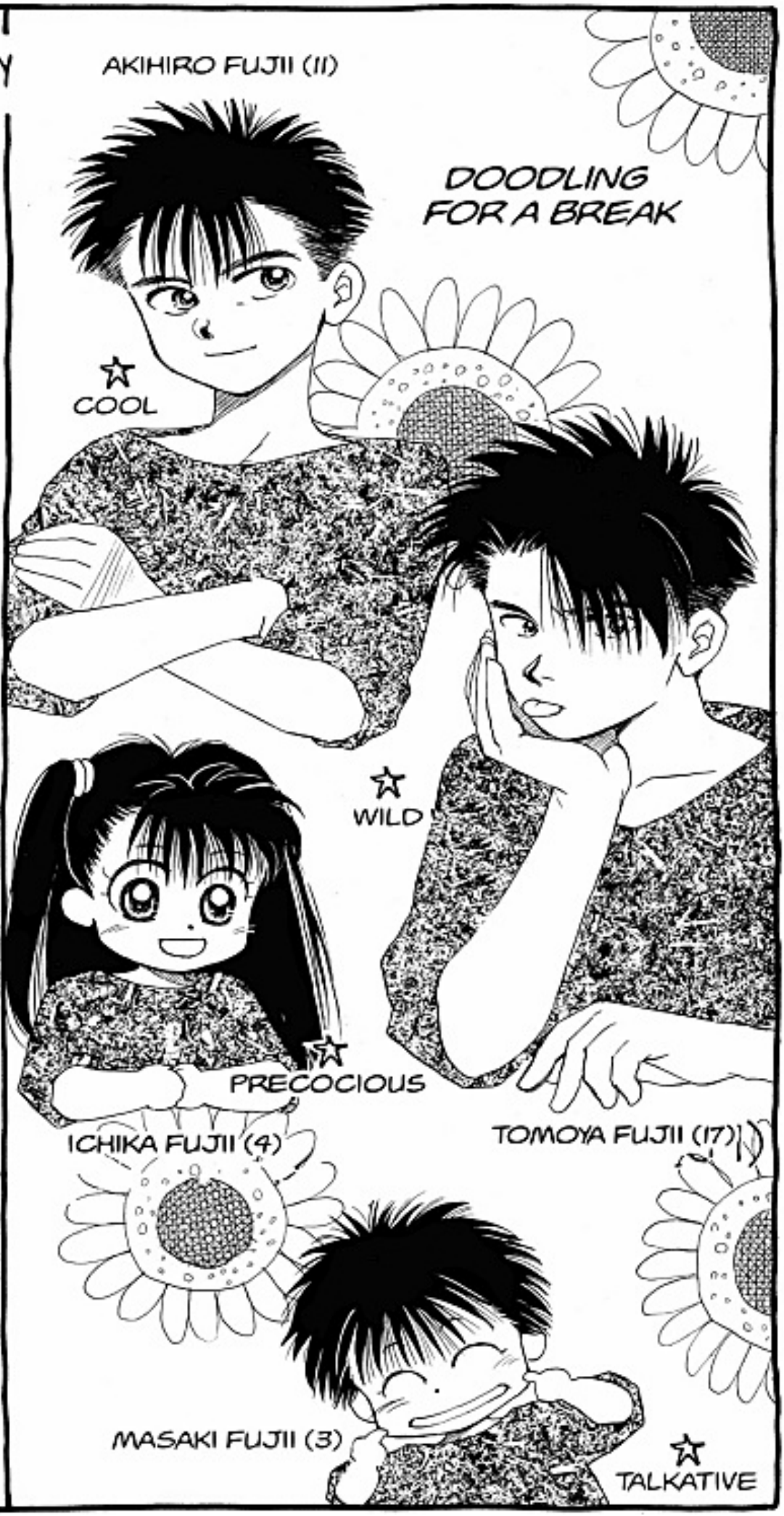
ZZZ
ZZZ
KLANK
KLANK
HOW CUTE ...
THEY'RE SOUND ASLEEP.
KLANK
HEE-HEE
HEE-HEE
...BE A HAPPY ONE FOR ALL OF YOU.
Cordless
MAY THIS YEAR...
ZZZ

THE FUJII FAMILY

MY PENMANSHIP IS TERRIBLE.

AKIHIRO HAS FIVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS. I COME FROM A BIG FAMILY TOO--I HAVE FOUR SIBLINGS. EVER SINCE AKIHIRO CAME ON THE SCENE, I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF LETTERS FROM PEOPLE WHO COME FROM BIG FAMILIES LIKE HIS. LIVING WITH THREE, FOUR, OR FIVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS ISN'T EASY. SOME PEOPLE EVEN FIND IT EMBARRASSING AND DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT. OTHERS COMPLAIN THAT THEY HAVE TO DO TOO MUCH HOUSEWORK. BUT THEY ALL SAY THAT THEY LOVE THEIR FAMILIES DESPITE IT ALL.

THE FUJII FAMILY HAS BECOME JUST AS POPULAR AS THE ENOKI FAMILY. AKIHIRO AND TOMOYA ARE ESPECIALLY POPULAR. I ENJOY DRAWING THE FUJII FAMILY. TWO OF THEM THAT HAVEN'T APPEARED YET ARE ASAKO AND AKEMI, THE OLDER SISTERS. I HAVEN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT SORT OF CHARACTERS THEY WILL BE. SORRY.



サンコウ流

BABY & Me

CHAPTER 8

MINORU ENOKI (2)
BLOOD TYPE: B

TAKUYA'S BABY BROTHER. HE IDOLIZES HIS BIG BROTHER. HIS SECRET WEAPON IS HIS SMILE.

THIS IS THE POIGNANT AND HEART-WARMING STORY OF A FAMILY OF THREE MEN-- TAKUYA, WHO HAS LOST HIS MOTHER; HIS BABY BROTHER; AND THEIR FATHER-- WHO ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO MAKE A HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER.

TAKUYA ENOKI (11)
BLOOD TYPE: A

AN ENERGETIC FIFTH GRADER WHO TAKES GOOD CARE OF HIS BABY BROTHER. HE'S NORMALLY GENTLE, BUT CAN GET TOUGH WHEN NECESSARY.

HARUMI ENOKI (33)
BLOOD TYPE: B

TAKUYA'S FATHER. HE'S A LITTLE OUT OF HIS DEPTH SOMETIMES, BUT HE'S A KIND AND LOVING FATHER.

THE CO-STARS

TAMADATE (11)
BLOOD TYPE: B.
TAKUYA'S CLASSMATE. HE'S A LITTLE PAIN IN THE NECK FROM A RICH FAMILY.

FUJII (11)
BLOOD TYPE: B
TAKUYA'S CLASSMATE. HE'S COOL. ONE OF SIX CHILDREN.

TADASHI GOTOH AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS

TADASHI GOTOH (11)
BLOOD TYPE: O
NICKNAMED GON. TAKUYA'S BEST FRIEND AND OCCASIONAL COMIC RELIEF.

THE KIMURA FAMILY FROM ACROSS THE STREET

MR. KIMURA (50)
ENERGETIC. DANCES ON HIS WAY TO WORK.

MRS. KIMURA (54)
SHE'S FLAMBOYANT. LOVES TO MEDDLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS.

GON'S DAD (46)
BLOOD TYPE: O

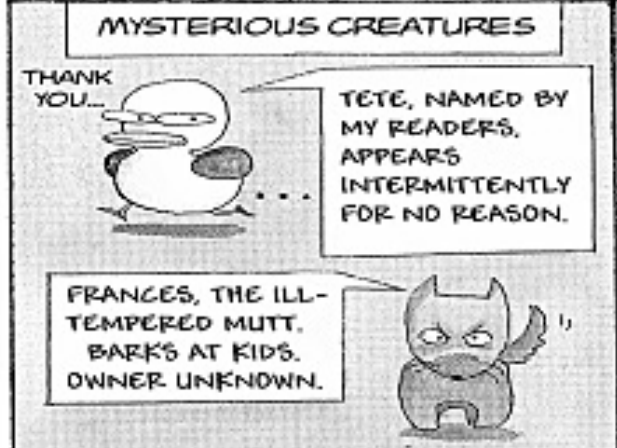
HE MUST HAVE DOMINANT GENES BECAUSE HIS CHILDREN ALL LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HIM. HE RUNS A LIQUOR STORE

HIROKO GOTOH (2)
BLOOD TYPE: O

GON'S SISTER. SHE'S IN LOVE WITH MINORU.

GON'S MOM (38)
BLOOD TYPE: A

MYSTERIOUS CREATURES



TETE, NAMED BY MY READERS. APPEARS INTERMITTENTLY FOR NO REASON.

FRANCES, THE ILL-TEMPERED MUTT. BARKS AT KIDS. OWNER UNKNOWN.

MA-BO (3) BLOOD TYPE: A
FUJII'S BABY BROTHER.

KUMADE (11)
BLOOD TYPE: A
A TOUGH KID WITH A PURE HEART.

*KUMADE LOOKS LIKE PRO GOLFER SARU, A COMIC BOOK CHARACTER.

I WONDER...
GOO ...
...WHAT CHANGES...
...LIE AHEAD...
HUH?
...FOR US.

M-NORU...
CHEEP CHEEP
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
CHEEP CHEEP
HEE!

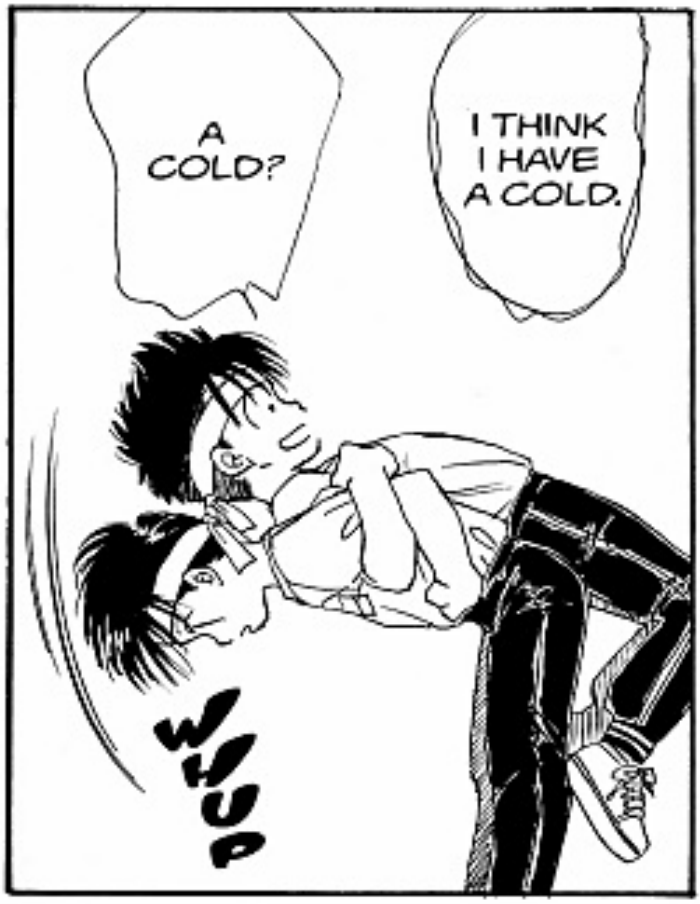
BWAA!
WHUP
GOOD JOB, MINORU!
TAKUYA?
MINORU?
WHY ALL THE RACKET SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
DAD, LOOK!!
YAY...
MINORU PUT HIS SOCKS ON ALL BY HIMSELF!!
BIG BOY PANTS
DUNT DUNT-DA-DUM!

I HAVEN'T WORN THIS SHIRT FOR AWHILE, AND IT'S TIGHT!
GULP
I NEVER USED TO LIKE COFFEE SO MUCH.
THE LOVE YOU TWO HAVE FOR EACH OTHER ...
...KIND OF ...CHOKES ME UP SOME-TIMES.
SNIFF SNIFF
...
HUH?
PLOP
KRUNCH
KRUNCH
PLOP
KRUNCH
WHEN DID...
MINORU LEARN TO FEED HIMSELF?
?
MUNCH
MUNCH
I CAN'T REMEMBER.

MRMR
HUH? MY THROAT'S SORE... AND MY VOICE IS HOARSE.
TAKUYA
WHEN I TAKE A BATH WITH MINORU, HE KEEPS ME SO BUSY THAT THERE'S NO TIME TO JUST RELAX AND SOAK.
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AGH!
WE'RE RUNNING A MARA-THON IN P.E. TODAY.
GON
MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A COLD.
MRMR
MRMR
OW...
WHY DO YOU KEEP BUGGING US LATELY! THAT'S WHY NOBODY LIKES YOU!!
TAMADATE!
SKWEEZE
IS SOME-THING WRONG, GON?
...WITH ME?
HOW ABOUT SITTING IT OUT...
WTP
...HIS FACE.
AND ...
HIS HEAD...

HUH?!
!!
C'MON GUYS...
CUT IT OUT!
YOU OKAY?
THIS IS BAD. MY THROAT'S REALLY SORE.
OH NO...
AGH...
AGH...
THE REST OF ME FEELS FINE.
UNGH...
TWEEEE

AS USUAL, YOU'LL GO OUT THE FRONT GATE, AND RETURN THROUGH THE BACK GATE! DON'T FORGET!
ARE YOU READY?
MR. OGAWA'S NOT HERE TODAY. THAT'S PROBABLY WHY WE'RE RUNNING WITH THEM.
I'M TIRED.
IT'S FREEZING.
WE HAVE TO RUN WITH GROUP ONE TODAY?
IS HE EVER GONNA GET OVER IT?
TAKUYA ENOKI AND AKIHIRO FUJII...WHAT MAKES THOSE GUYS SO POPULAR? THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA LOSE TO THEM.
IN THE MARATHON.
SHEESH
STARE
I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME, BUT HE'S STARING AT US.
KUMADE?
THAT GUY IN GROUP ONE...
REALLY?


A COLD?
I THINK I HAVE A COLD.
WHEEZE

WHAT'S WITH YOUR VOICE?
TAKUYA...

MY VOICE ?
AAH...

YAAAH
YOUR VOICE IS CHANG-ING.

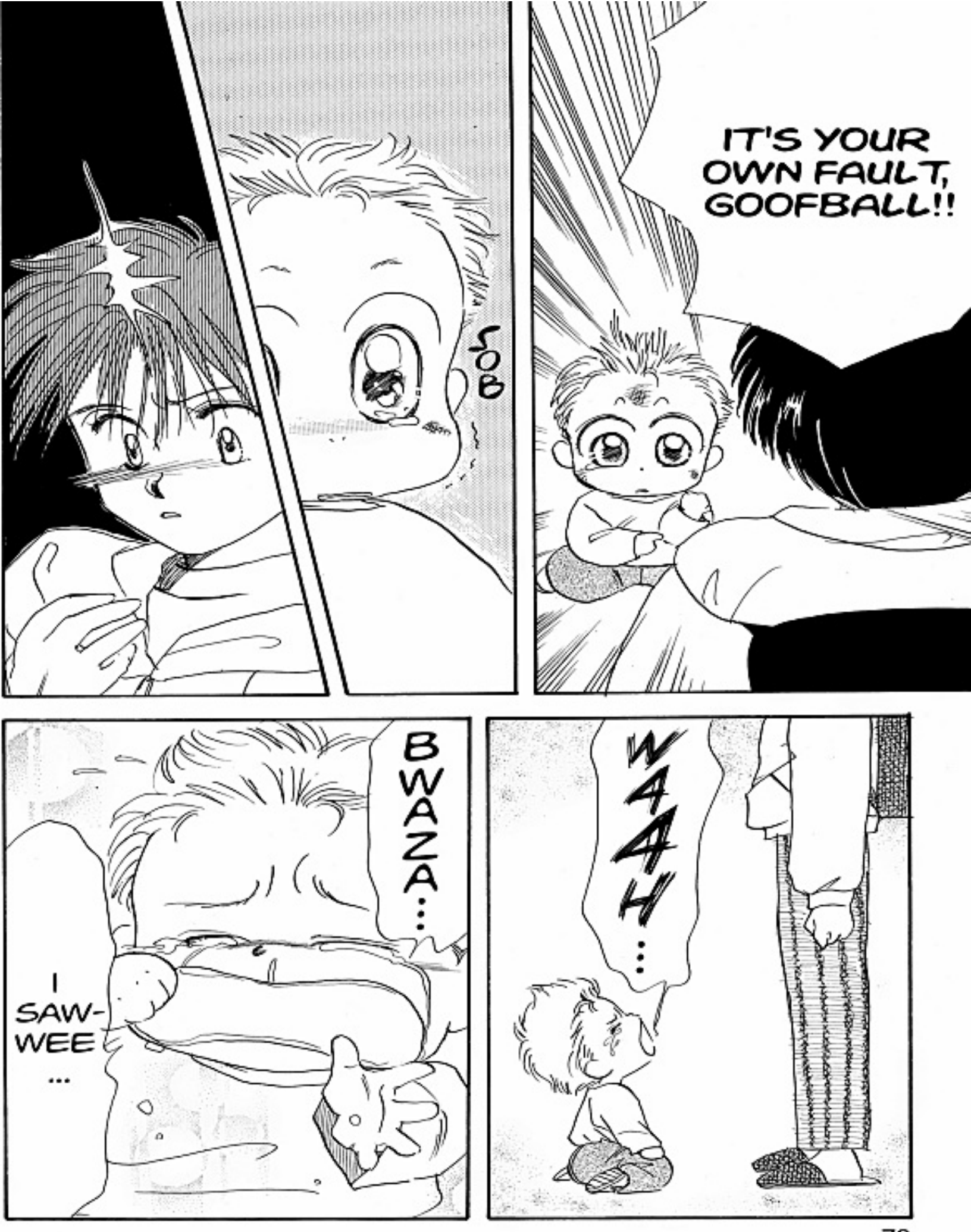
NO, NO...

THAT'S ...
AARGH!

DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS STUFF, TAKUYA?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
NO WAY. MY VOICE ISN'T ANY DEEPER.
CHANGING?
SURE... AS SOON AS YOU LOSE HALF A TON.
HEY, THEY DID A FLIP! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN.
HUH?
YOUR VOICE DOESN'T CHANGE ALL AT ONCE.
...IT JUST SOUNDS DIFFERENT.
IT'S HAPPENED TO ME ALREADY.
BUT IT DOESN'T GET LOWER RIGHT AWAY...
JUST WAIT TILL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL.
IT CHANGES A LITTLE AT A TIME. IT FEELS LIKE A COLD—
IT CHANGES IN STAGES...
YOUR THROAT GETS SORE AND YOUR VOICE GETS GRAVELLY.
ABOUT THREE STAGES, I THINK.

FUJII'S A FREAK OF NATURE.
IS THAT TRUE?
IT'S LIKE...
...HE'S ALWAYS A STEP AHEAD OF THE REST OF US.
YOUR VOICE WILL BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BY THEN.
OH!
GAAH!!
FWUMP
OH!
TUNK
BWAZA!
BWAZA!
TUP
TUP
TUP
TUP

WHUP
UH-OH!
MINO-RU!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
HE'S GOING TO CRY!!
TUPTUPTUP
I SEE.
HEE-UH AN'...
UMM...
...HEE-UH. OWIE...
OWIE.
BWAZA...
OH? UH, WHERE?

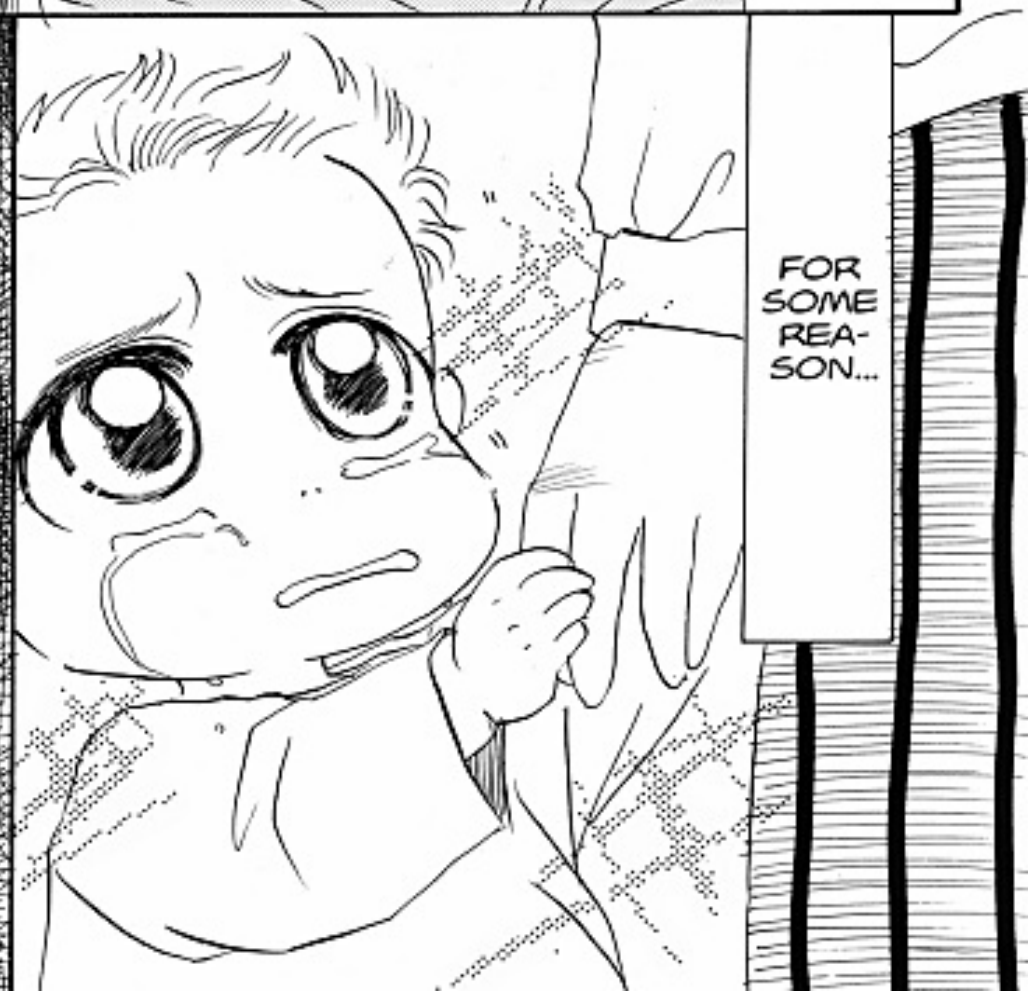

SOB
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT, GOOFBALL!!
BWANA...
I SAW-WEE...
WAAH...

I'M NOT MAD AT YOU!!
BAM
EEEE
I SAW-WEE...

MI--
WAAAH
I SAW-WEE...
MINORU...

DON'T BE SORRY !!
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, MINORU !

I FEEL LIKE THERE'S A HOLE OPENING UP IN MY HEART.


FOR SOME REA-SON...

KLANG
WELL, YOUR VOICE SOUNDS DIFFER-ENT.
KLANG
HUH? WHY?
KLANG
YOU MEAN, "WEIRD"?
5-2
DO YOU HAVE A COLD, TAKUYA?
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
5-2
MAYBE ...
A LITTLE.
N-NO WAY!!
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
WHAT?
...YOUR VOICE IS CHANG-ING.
GEEZ, TAKENAKA ...
YOU'RE SO LUCKY.
...BE-CAUSE MY VOICE ISN'T LIKE A BOY'S.
MY MOM SAYS I SHOULD'VE BEEN A GIRL...

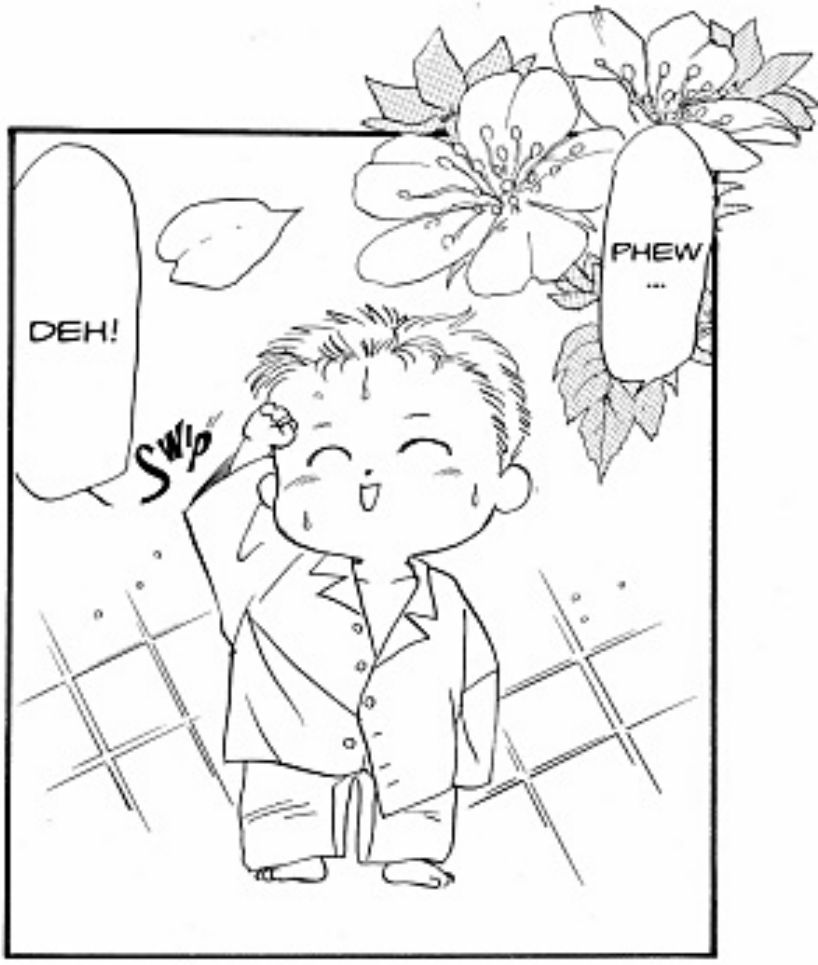
MY DADDY LISTENS MORE THAN HE TALKS.
WHAT WOULD WE TALK ABOUT?
REALLY?
UM... MAN TO MAN?
I GUESS I'M A MAMA'S BOY. MY DAD AND I DON'T TALK MUCH.
TAKUYA, DO YOU AND YOUR DAD TALK, MAN TO MAN?
STOP TALKING LIKE A BABY.
HA HA! HE SAID "DAD-DY"...
HA!
THOSE SIXTH GRADERS ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO PICK FIGHTS.
YOU SHOULDN'T LET THEM GET TO YOU.
I KNOW ...
HEE HEE HEE
HA HA HA

THROB
BOO ...
THROB
WARREN THE STEAM ENGINE
CHOO CHOO
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.
THEY'LL BE GRADUATING SOON, SO THIS IS THEIR LAST CHANCE TO CRACK DOWN ON COCKY YOUNGER KIDS.
KLANK
KLANK
ALL OF THEM?
RUSTLE
CHANGE THE PILLOWCASE, OKAY?
OH, IT'S ALREADY 8 O'CLOCK. I'LL LAY OUT THE BEDDING.
DOOM
!!
SPEAKING OF DROOLING...
IT'S STAINED WITH DROOL.
JUST MINO-RU'S.
RUSTLE
...

MINORU...
BWAZA...
I KIND OF REMEMBER WHEN HE STOPPED WEARING DIAPERS...
WHEN DID MINORU STOP USING A BIB?
AIR CONDIT
MINO-WU...
...GO BED...
YOU TOOK YOUR CLOTHES OFF ALL BY YOUR-SELF.
NO!
OGAY.
THEN LET'S PUT ON YOUR PAJAMAS.

HE CAN DO A LOT OF THINGS WITHOUT MY HELP NOW.

YOU MANAGED ONE BUTTON, AND IT'S OFF BY TWO.
THAT TOOK ABOUT EIGHT MINUTES.


PHEW ...
DEH!
SWIP

40?!
I GIVE YOU A SCORE OF...40 POINTS!
AND YOUR PANTS ARE INSIDE-OUT AND BACK-WARDS.

TIK
TIK
TIK
...
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK

THE ACHE IN MY HEART KEEPS GETTING WORSE...
UMM...
UNH...
RUSTLE
WHAT'LL I DO?
OH
HEY...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
THAT'S STRANGE. I WAS SURE IT WAS AROUND HERE.
HMM...
...THOSE BOYS...

THE SIXTH GRAD-ERS!!
WE'RE LOOKING FOR AKIHIRO FUJII. YOU KNOW WHERE HE LIVES?
THE SIXTH GRAD-ERS...
...WERE LOOKING FOR ME?
302
AKEMI
TOMOYA
ASAKO
AKIHIRO
ICHIKA
MASAKI
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.
IT'S THEIR LAST CHANCE TO CRACK DOWN...
...ON COCKY YOUNGER KIDS.
UM... I HAVE NO IDEA...
HMM...
MOM, I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE. IF ANYBODY COMES LOOKING FOR ME, TELL 'EM TO GET LOST.
THEY PROB-ABLY WANT TO BEAT YOU UP!
WHY?
WHY?

Tup
Tup
Tup
Tup
YAY!
OKAY, MA-BO. LET'S GO.
THEN TAKE MA-BO WITH YOU!
BUT WON'T THEY FIND YOU HERE? IT MIGHT BE SAFER TO STAY HOME.
KREEK
WOW, HE TALKS GOOD...
HELLO. MY NAME IS MASAKI FUJII. THANK YOU FOR LOOKING OUT FOR MY BIG BROTHER.
SAY HELLO, MA-BO.
HI, MASAKI. NICE TO MEET YOU.
HEWO.
PROBABLY.
BUT THEY'LL CORNER ME SOONER OR LATER...
I'D JUST AS SOON GET IT OVER WITH.
YEAH, BUT...
FIS

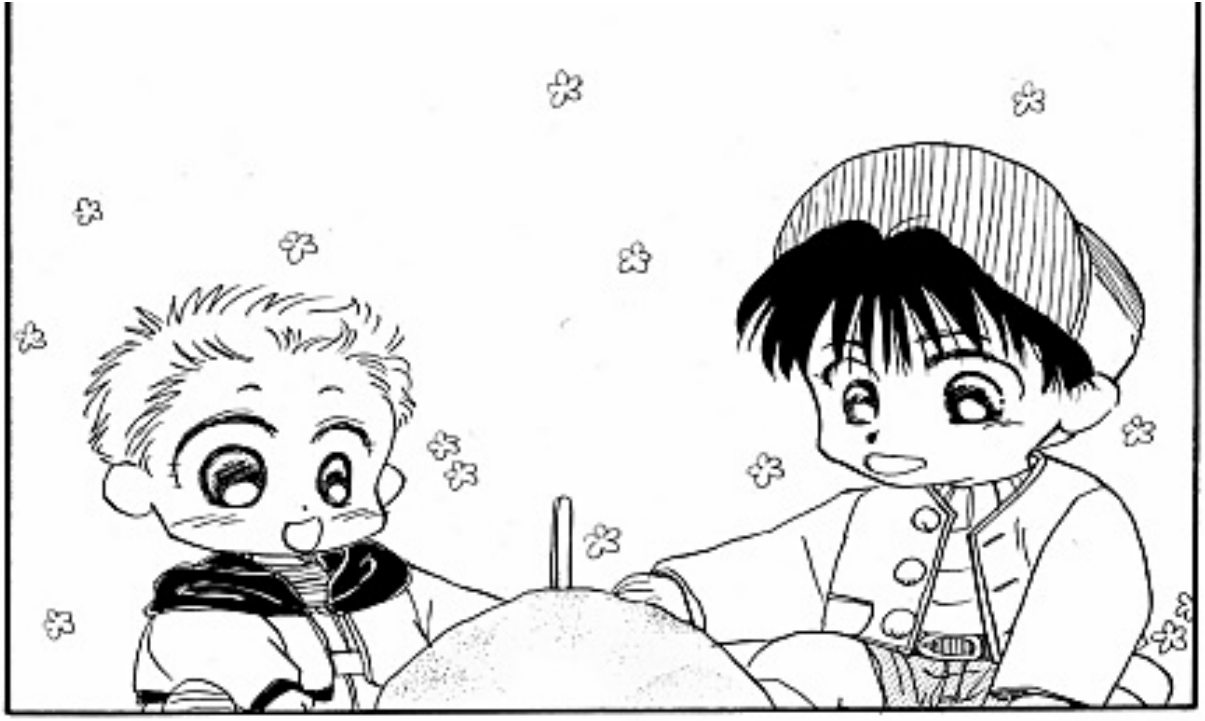
POPULAR SERIES:
YOSHIZO THE RABBIT PART 2

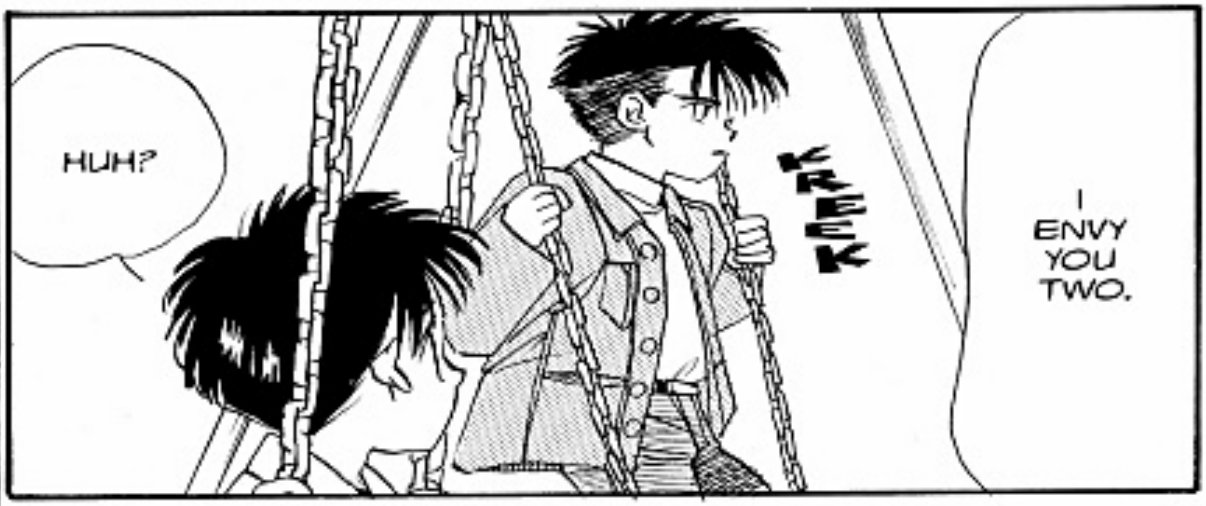
EVEN RABBITS HAVE PERSONALITIES. A FRIEND OF MINE USED TO KEEP A LOT OF RABBITS. SHE SAYS THE DOCILE ONES ARE THE BEST. IN THAT CASE, YOSHIZO'S MUST BE PRETTY BAD.

I MADE A PEN FOR YOSHIZO OUT OF TWO LAUNDRY BASKETS.

BUT NOW THAT HE'S BIG, YOSHIZO LIKES TO STAND UP AND KNOCK THE TOP BASKET OFF.

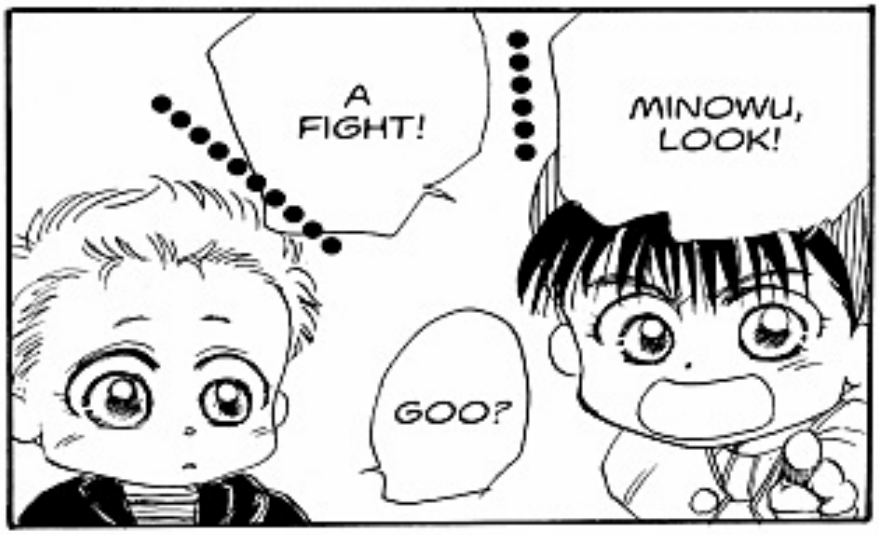
YOSHIZO ACTUALLY SEEMED TO BE GLOATING.





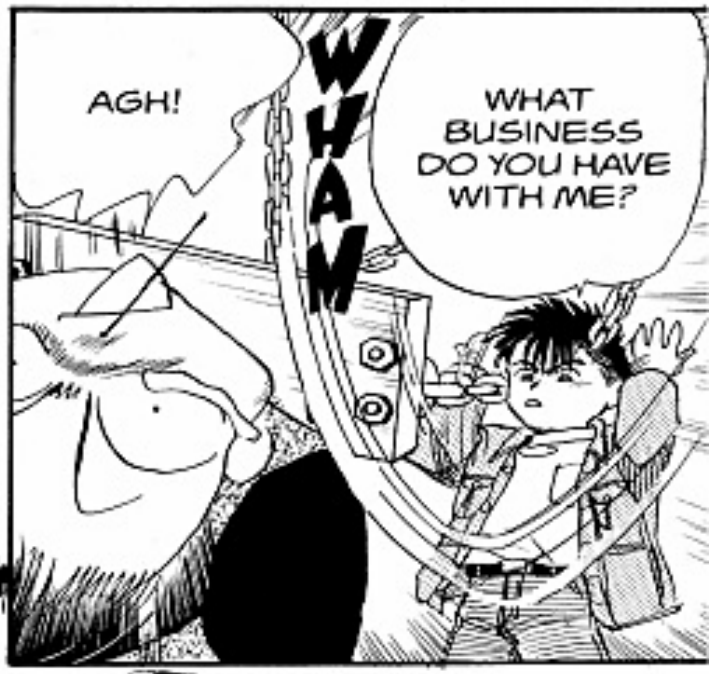
BUT...
I'M NOT GOOD AT SHOWING AFFECTION ...
MAYBE THE MOST SIMILAR BROTHER AND SISTER ...
...ARE GON AND HIRO.
GON DOESN'T TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF HER, THOUGH.
DO THEY EVEN GET ALONG?
...AT ALL.
LATELY, I'VE FELT LIKE THERE'S A HOLE IN MY HEART.
I'VE BEEN REALIZING ...
...THAT SOON MINORU ...
...PROBABLY WON'T NEED ME ANYMORE.

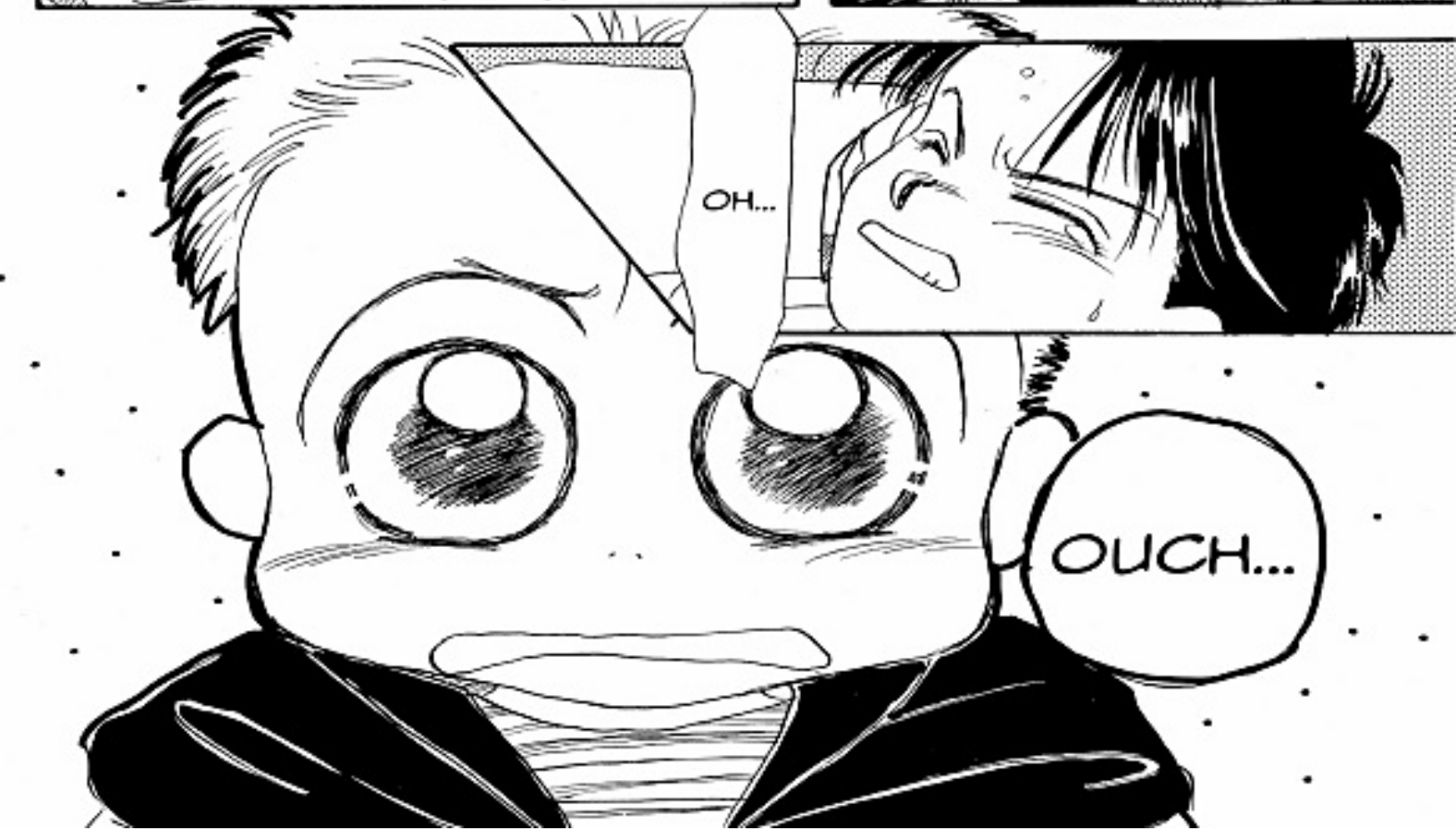
WHEN I SEE HOW MINORU IS TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING FOR HIMSELF...
...I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING LEFT BEHIND.
AND NEXT THING I KNOW, I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO CRY.
DOES THAT EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?
KREEK
WELL, THERE ARE SIX OF US, SO...
TUMP
!!
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, FUJII.
PEACE!
DOOM


A FIGHT!
MINOWU, LOOK!
GOO?

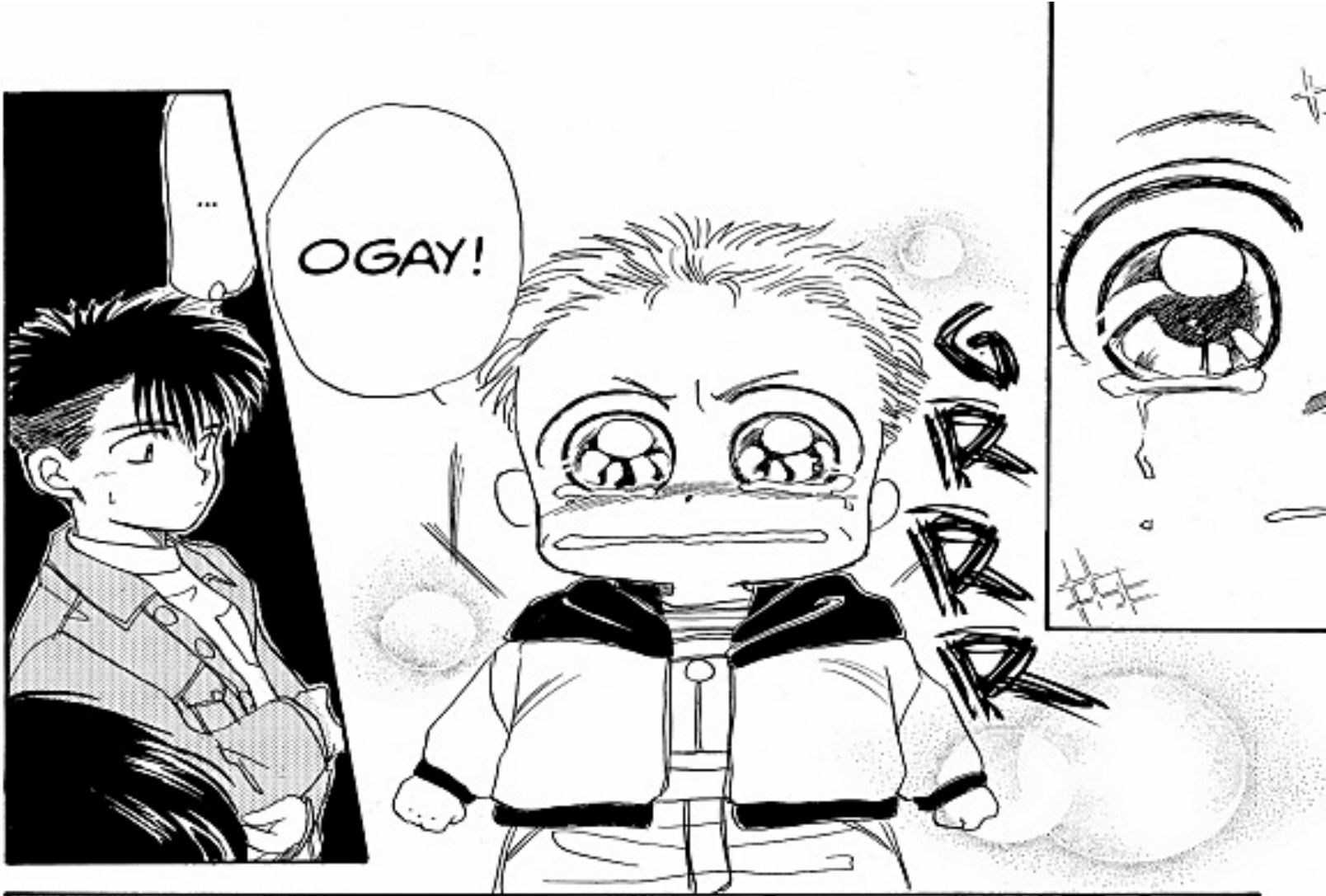
YOU WERE COVERING FOR HIM!!
HEY, YOU'RE THE KID WE TALKED TO A WHILE AGO.

BAM
GET 'EM! WE'LL FIX BOTH THESE PUNKS!
YIKES!
WHUMP


AGH!
WHAM
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH ME?


OH...
OUCH...

SHUT UP, BRAT! OR I'LL STEP ON YOU!!
GASP
'TOP DAT, DUMMY ?!
DON'T CRY, MINORU!!
BLUP BLUP BLUP
BUH BUH...


...
OGAY!
GRRRRR

THROB
THROB
THROB
HEHHEHHEHHEH...

WELL ...
...THEN THERE'S NO CHOICE.
A MAN'S GOTTA DO WHAT A MAN'S GOTTA DO.

I HATE TO ASK YOU THIS, TAKU-YA...
...BUT I'M GONNA NEED A LITTLE HELP.

WE'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!
DARN YOU!
PEACE!
I WASN'T MUCH HELP.
WOW... YOU DID MOST OF THE WORK...
WE SHOWED THOSE GORIL-LAS!
HUFF
HUFF
THEY CAN'T PUSH US AROUND JUST 'CAUSE THEY'RE IN SIXTH GRADE.
KA-BAM
OWIE, BWAZA?
HUFF ...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HA HA HA... LOTS OF OWIES.

UH, LISTEN, TAKUYA...
...THAT JUST MEANS YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB OF TEACHING HIM.
IF MINORU LEARNS TO DO THINGS FOR HIMSELF...
YOU CAN GET UP BY YOURSELF.
MINORU, DON'T CRY IF YOU FALL DOWN.
I WAS WATCHING MINORU EARLIER...
YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO PUT ON YOUR OWN CLOTHES.
YEAH ...
IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE MINORU STILL NEEDS HIS BIG BROTHER.

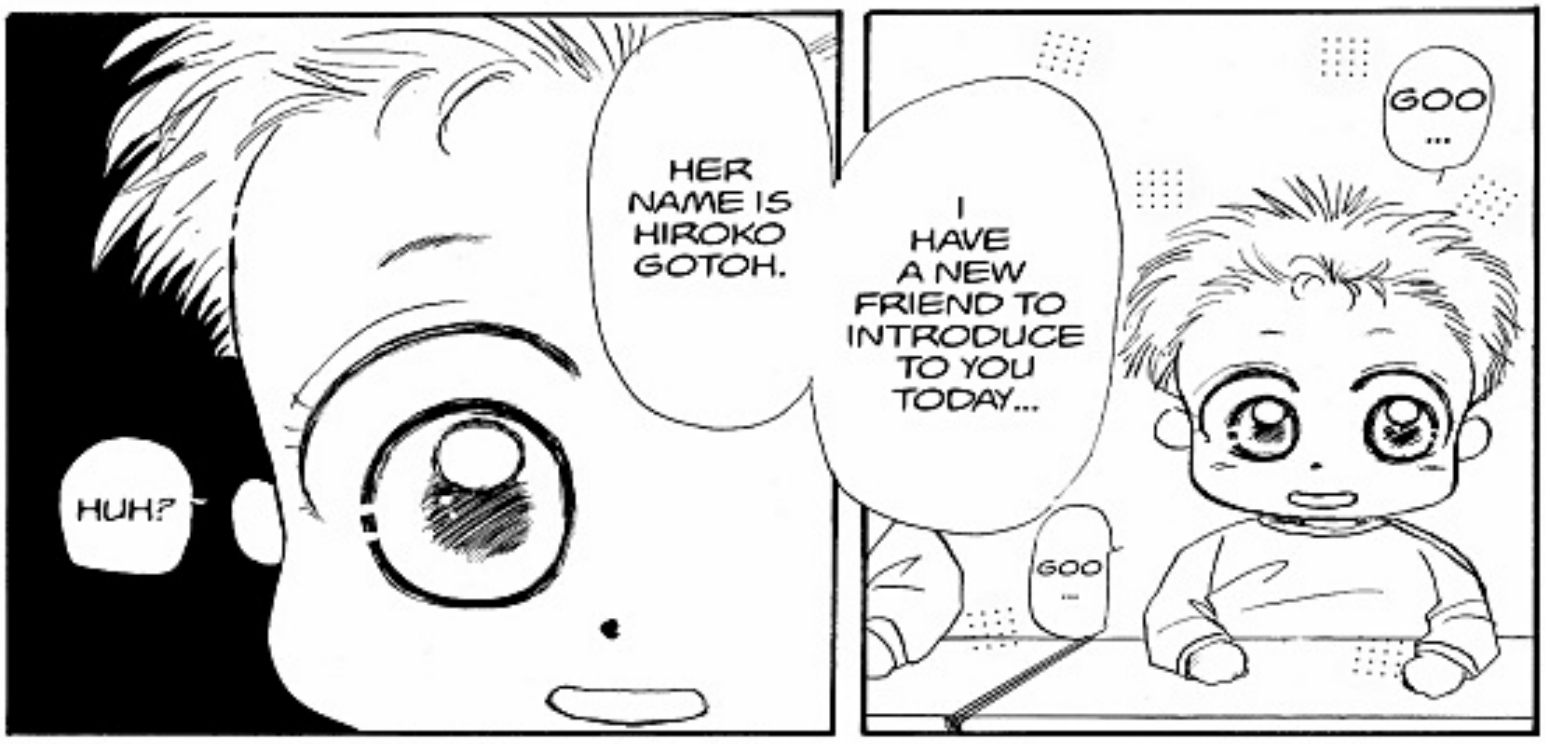
AKIHIRO ...
FIGHTING IS BAD.
CUTE KID, HUH?
...
DIDN'T YOU TEACH HIM THAT?
IT SOUNDED BETTER WHEN I SAID IT.
UBBA ?
AHWOOO
HE'S CHANGING SO FAST.
HE SNORES SO LOUD...
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZ

ZZZ
OH...
OH...
SUDDENLY ONE DAY WE JUST CHANGE...
AHH...
ZZ
HMM...
BOTH OF US.
HRUMM
I DON'T SOUND ANY DIFFERENT...
AND... ...LITTLE BY LITTLE...
ZZZ
FWUP
...WE GROW UP.
CHAPTER 8: THE END

BABY & Me

CHAPTER 9

GOOD MORNING, TEACHER!
GOOD MORNING.
CHIL-DREN ...
KAWASU CITY SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO. 2


HUH?
HER NAME IS HIROKO GOTOH.
I HAVE A NEW FRIEND TO INTRODUCE TO YOU TODAY...
GOO ...
GOO ...

I'D LIKE ALL OF YOU TO PLAY NICELY WITH HER.

DA-DDY

IT ALL START-ED...
...WITH A WORD FROM GON.
SIGH
SITTING...
...IS SUCH A PAIN.
GON!! JUST DO THE EXPERIMENT!!
NOT SITTING DOWN, I'M TALKING ABOUT BABYSITTING.
SIT-TING?
HUH?
A CHARGED WEIGHT

I'M GOING TO GET HIRO INTO THAT NURSERY SCHOOL.
ABOUT WHAT?
TAKUYA, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
WHY DID HE HAVE TO BE IN OUR GROUP?!
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
MOM
YOU'RE NOT THINKING, TAKUYA!
KLAK
KLAK
WHAM
RIGHT AWAY? BUT IT'S FEB-RUARY ... THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR STARTS IN APRIL. THERE'LL BE A NEW GROUP OF KIDS THEN.
AND I MEAN RIGHT AWAY. ♡
I'M ASKING MY MOM AS SOON AS I GET HOME.
THAT'S IT...
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
KA-BAM BAM BAM BAM-BAM
IF I DON'T GET HER IN THERE NOW, I'LL HAVE TO BABYSIT HER THROUGH ALL OF SPRING BREAK!!
NOW LISTEN UP...

IT WAS A SIMPLE PLAN.
FINE WITH ME... BUT MINORU DOESN'T LIKE HIRO THAT MUCH...
NONE OF US REALIZED THAT IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF...
OH MY...
...A LOVE TRIANGLE!
MINORU AND HIROKO ARE ALREADY FRIENDS.
AW.
OH MY...
OH MY...
HAPH...
I'M TAKUYA, MINORU'S BIG BROTHER.
I'M HERE FOR HIROKO.

MINORU AND HIRO?
ODD GOING ON WITH THOSE TWO?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. TELL ME, IS THERE SOME-THING...
WHAT?
HA! MINORU'S EMBAR-RASSED.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
EXCUSE ME.
TUG

HUH?
THAT FACE, IT'S SO FAMILIAR...
♡MINORU♡
HEY?
HUH?
RRRR
UH?
HI!

KREK
KREK
KREK
KREK
KREK
!!
BWAZA!
HOW DO YOU DO?
MY NAME IS ICHIKA. I'M FOUR YEARS OLD, AND I'M IN THE TURTLE GROUP.
SHWUFF
ARE YOU MINORU'S BIG BRO-THER?
BWAZA...
TUP TUP TUP
YES, I AM.
I'M GOING TO MARRY MINORU.
FIDGET FIDGET
CAN I CALL YOU "BROTHER"?
WAIT A...
HUH?

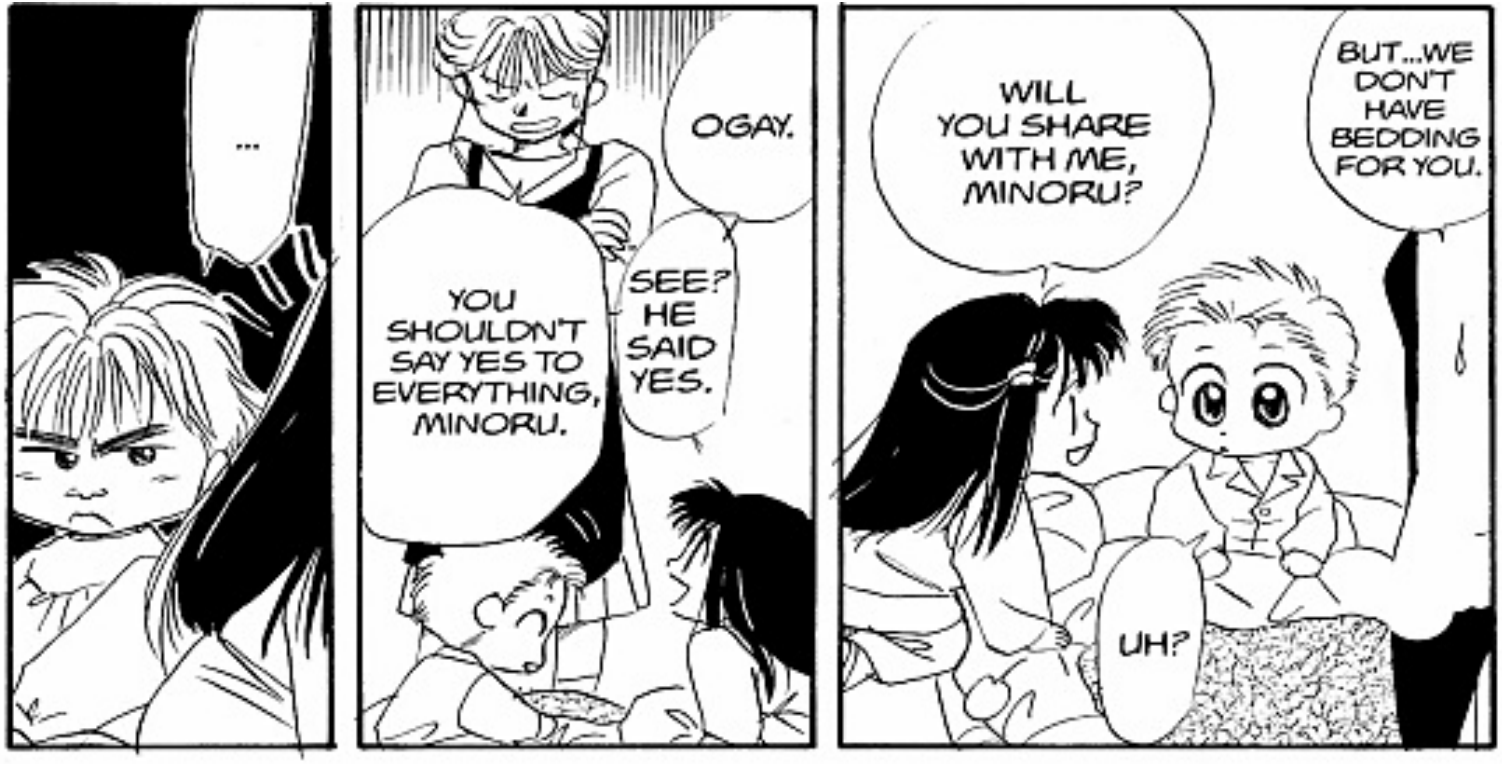
GOZ.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HIRO'S GONNA MARRY MINORU!
YEAH
NOW HOLD ON!
PLEASE MARRY ME.
UH?
WELL, MINORU?
BUT ... BUT ...
MINORU PROMISED TO MAKE ME HIS BRIDE!
OGAY.

I'VE MET ICHIKA SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
HER FACE...
I'M SURE ...
I FIGURED AS MUCH.
HIS PROMISE TO YOU IS NO GOOD.
TAKUYA
YEAH.
?
BUT I CAN'T RE-MEMBER WHERE.
HMMM
...AND THE WAY SHE TALKS...
RAAAH
...
RAAAH

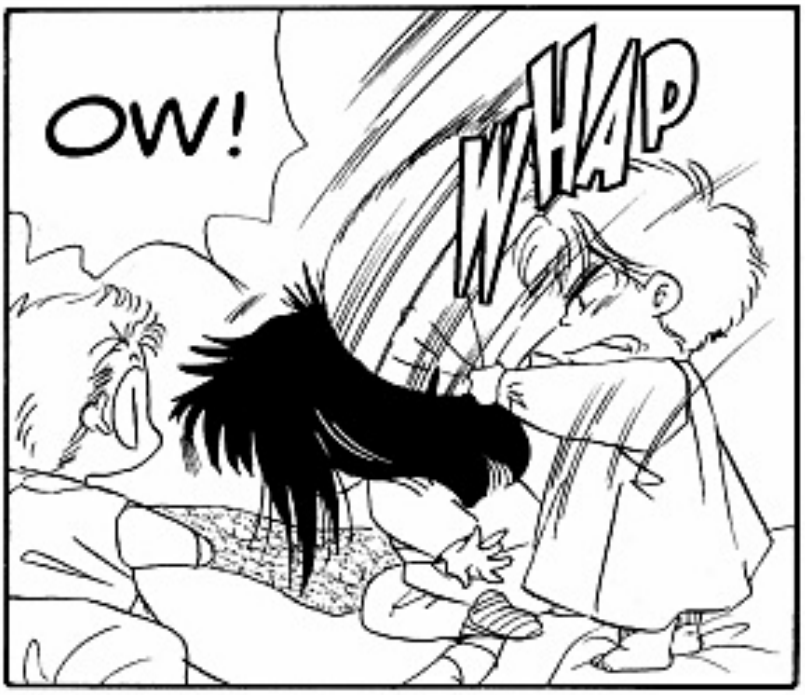
THUMP
KREEK
HMPH.
WAAAAAH
WHUP
KRAAH
OOF!
GRRRR
...BUT I TAKE IT BACK!! YOU'RE NOT WORTHY OF MINORU'S LOVE!
YESTERDAY, I ACKNOWLEDGED YOU AS MY RIVAL...
!!
THAT WAS MEAN! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

UG...? YOU CALLED ME UGLY?! AND YOU THINK YOU'RE PRETTY?
HMPH
...
UGWEE.
...
DON' ...
BAD ...
BWAZA SAY...
...DON' FIGHT...
DON' FIGHT...
YOU CALLED ME UGLY AGAIN?!
UG-WEE.
SOB
UH...
SOB

DOES EVERYONE HAVE THEIR PAJAMAS ON?
YES
YACK
YACK
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
GEEZ, KIDS NOW-ADAYS...
EEEEEEE
WAAAM
FUJI
YOU WANT TO LIE DOWN THERE, HIROKO? WELL...
OH?
BUT, ICHIKA, YOU'RE IN THE TURTLE GROUP. YOU HAVE TO TAKE A NAP IN YOUR OWN CLASSROOM.
HERE? BUT...
NO THANKS.
YOU START-LED ME.
OH... ICHIKA...
I'M GOING TO TAKE A NAP HERE, TOO.
TMP TMP
FUJI


...
OGAY.
SEE? HE SAID YES.
YOU SHOULDN'T SAY YES TO EVERYTHING, MINORU.
WILL YOU SHARE WITH ME, MINORU?
BUT...WE DON'T HAVE BEDDING FOR YOU.
UH?

WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
HIRO, STOP!


OW!
WHAP

...

GRR...

SWUP
SWUP
I HEAR GON'S LITTLE SISTER STARTED GOING TO SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL.
UNH
UNH
HRONK
HRONK
ZZZZ
POOR MINORU...
HE SKIPPED OUT ON CLEANING UP.
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS GON?
MAYBE GON TOLD HIM.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I HAVE MY SOURCES.
HUH?
GO AND GET HIROKO.
TADA-SHI...
GOTOH LIQUOR
GOTOH
LIQUOR

I GUESS I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER.
YACK
HERE I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA GET A BREAK.
YACK
YACK
I'M ON MY WAY.
I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT YOUR ALLOWANCE THIS MONTH.
SOON AS I FINISH READING THIS.
FUJII !?
HE LOOKS EXACT-LY LIKE HIM!
HUH?
WHO'S THIS KID?
YIKES
IT'S CREEPY ...
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
WUMP
OH, SORRY...

TOMOYA, ARE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SUPPOSED TO GO HOME THIS EARLY?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS.
BUT... YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GROUCHY.
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! MOM'S BUSY.
...
OH... HOW COME ...
...YOU'RE PICKING ME UP, TOMOYA?
TMP TMP TMP TMP
THE WAY ICHIKA LOOKS AND TALKS...
THAT'S IT...
...
NOD NOD
HOW CAN TWO PEOPLE LOOK SO MUCH ALIKE?
YOU'RE UP TO SOME-THING...
OH!

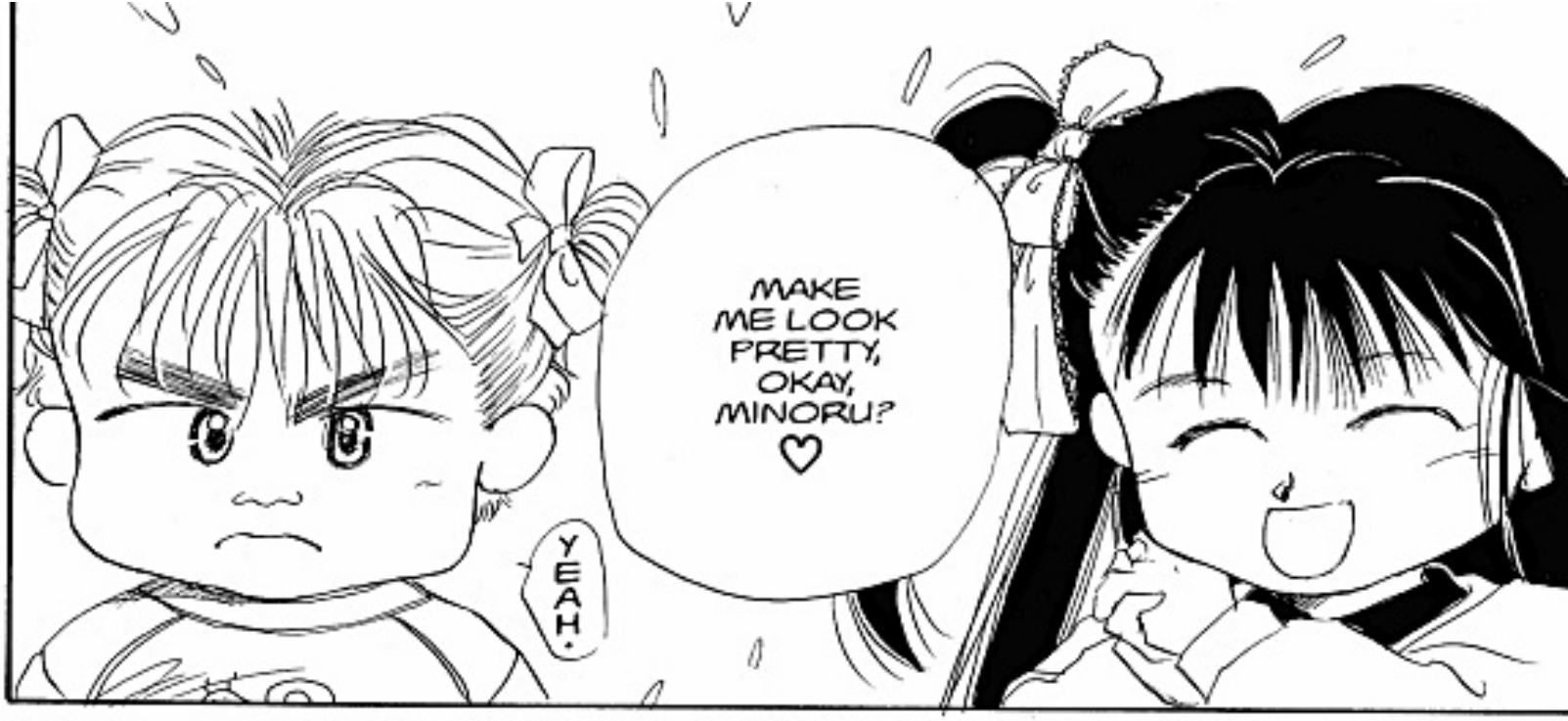
SWUP SWUP
SHE REMINDS ME OF FUJII'S LITTLE BROTHER MA-BO!!
HUH?
UM... FUJII?
YEAH.
DO YOU HAVE A LITTLE SISTER?
YIPPEE
KSHHH
THEIR PERSONALITIES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
ICHIKA'S BEEN TELLING US ALL ABOUT MINORU AND HIRO.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
WHAT?
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
WOULD HER NAME HAPPEN TO BE...
...ICHIKA?

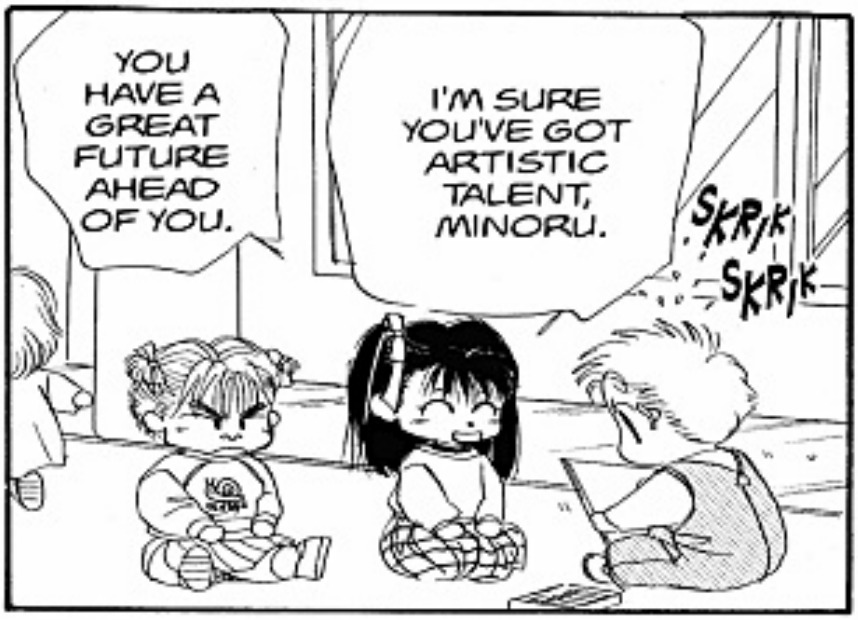
POPULAR SERIES:
YOSHIZO THE RABBIT PART 3

I THINK I WROTE IN VOLUME I THAT YOSHIZO HAD GROWN TO TWICE HIS ORIGINAL SIZE. WELL, NOW HE'S FOUR TIMES THAT BIG. LATELY, I'VE BEGUN TO DOUBT THAT HE'S A "MINI"-RABBIT AT ALL.

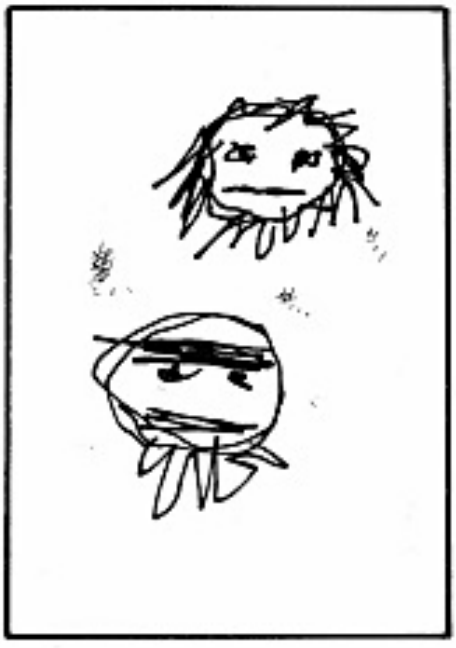
I RECEIVED SOME PHOTOS FROM PEOPLE WITH RABBITS. THEIR RABBITS ALL LOOKED VERY WELL BEHAVED. SOMEONE SENT ME SOME COOKIES ESPECIALLY FOR RABBITS CALLED "BRUNCH." MY LITTLE BROTHER ATE ONE, AND HE SAID IT TASTED PRETTY GOOD.

THAT WAS MY BROTHER.
WHAT A MORON... YOU ALMOST GOTTA ADMIRE HIM...THE CLUELESS WONDER...
HA HA
IT WAS AMAZING! I COULDN'T BELIEVE ANOTHER PERSON COULD LOOK SO MUCH LIKE YOU! YOU GOTTA SEE THIS GUY!


MAKE ME LOOK PRETTY, OKAY, MINORU? ♡
YEAH.

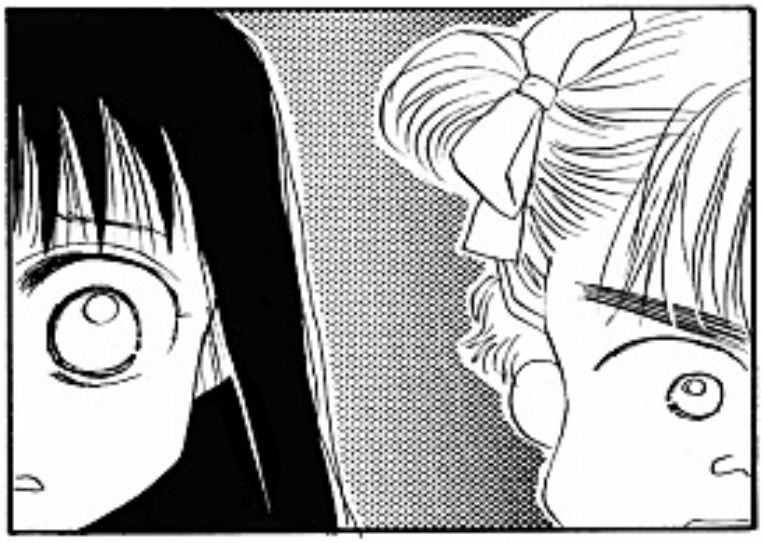

YOU HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU.
I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT ARTISTIC TALENT, MINORU.
SKRIK SKRIK

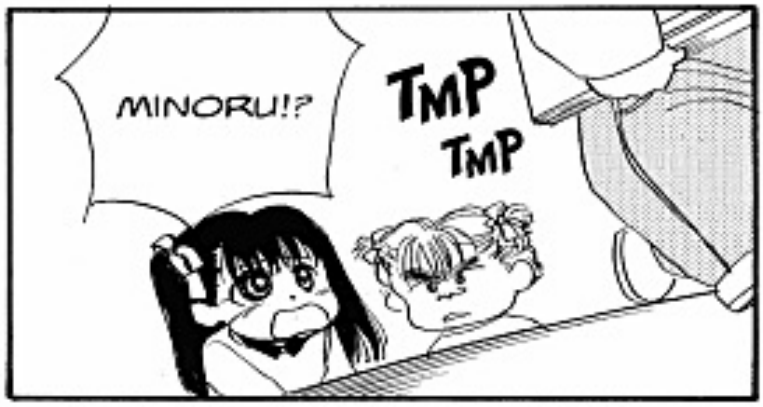
HMM...



YEAH.
OH, LET ME SEE!
DONE.

AND...
I'M THE TOP ONE, RIGHT, MINORU?
THAT'S YOU, HIRO, WITH THE ONE EYEBROW.
HEE!
AAAH!
RIP
AAAH!
FINE, THEN I'LL TEAR UP YOUR FACE!
RIP RIP RIP RIP
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
YOU TORE UP MY FACE!

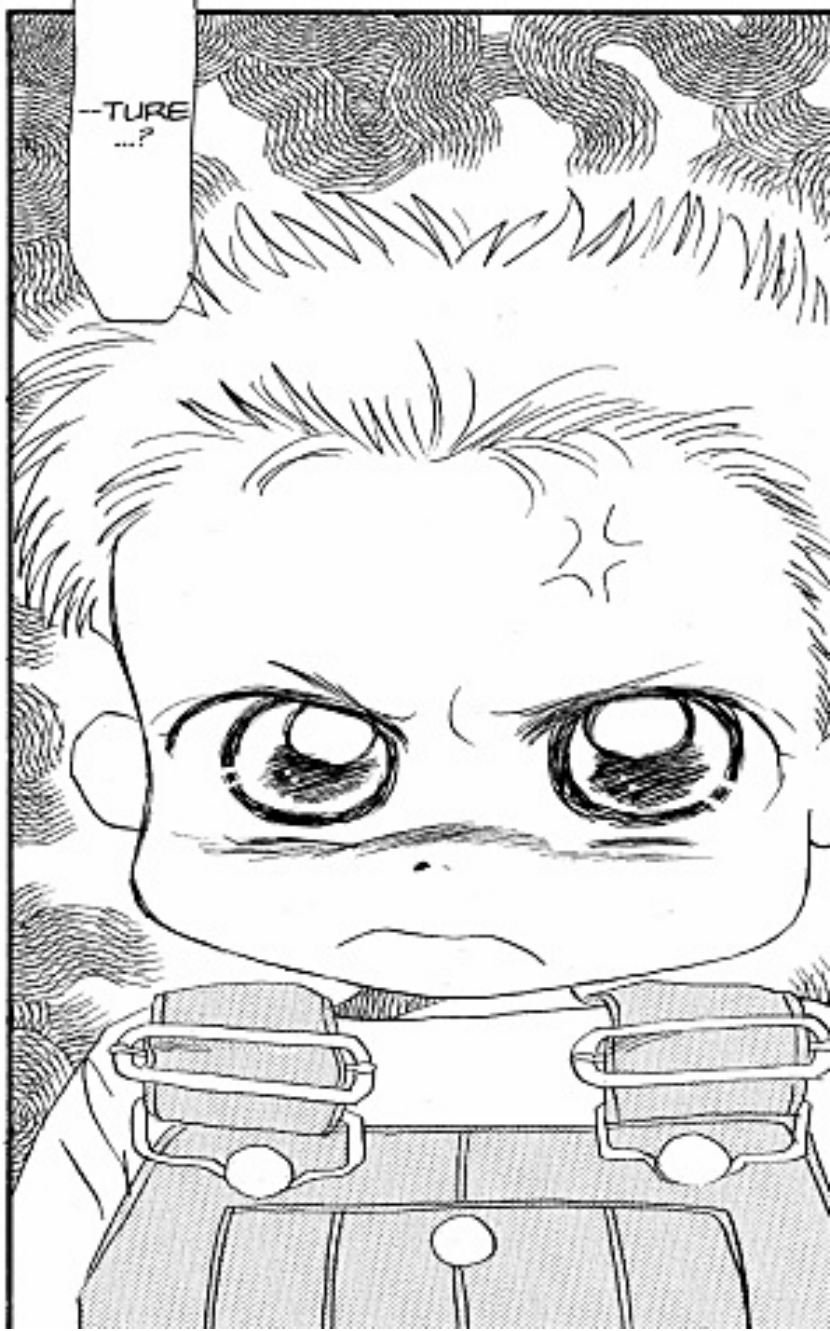



MINORU!?
TMP
TMP

WIP

I DON' WIKE YOUS.

MINORU, WILL YOU DRAW ANOTHER PIC--


--TURE ...?

GASP!
MINORU...
WHY AREN'T YOU PLAYING WITH HIROKO AND ICHIKA?
OH!
KLAK
OH DEAR...
SIGH...
OH DEAR...
PLOP

BWAA!
NO ENTOUR-AGE TODAY, MINORU?
WHERE'S HIRO?
WAP
TEACHER, WHERE'S HIRO?
SHE'S PRO-BABLY PLAYING WITH ICHIKA.
TEACHER!
TEACHER!
IT'S YOUR FAULT, HIRO!
YOU TORE MINORU'S PICTURE FIRST!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HIROKO ...
WITH ICHIKA?
...SHE'S OUTSIDE WITH ICHIKA.
OUCH!
YANK
YEAH.
MINORU WAS REALLY ANGRY, WASN'T HE?

SPLISH
FWUP
FWUP
HMPH!
WHUP
OH, MY RIBBON!
STOP BEING SO ROUGH!
WAAAH!!
GULP
SOB ...
HIRO...?
SOB SOB
YANK
DEN DEN
...
MY FAVORITE RIBBON!!
WAAH!

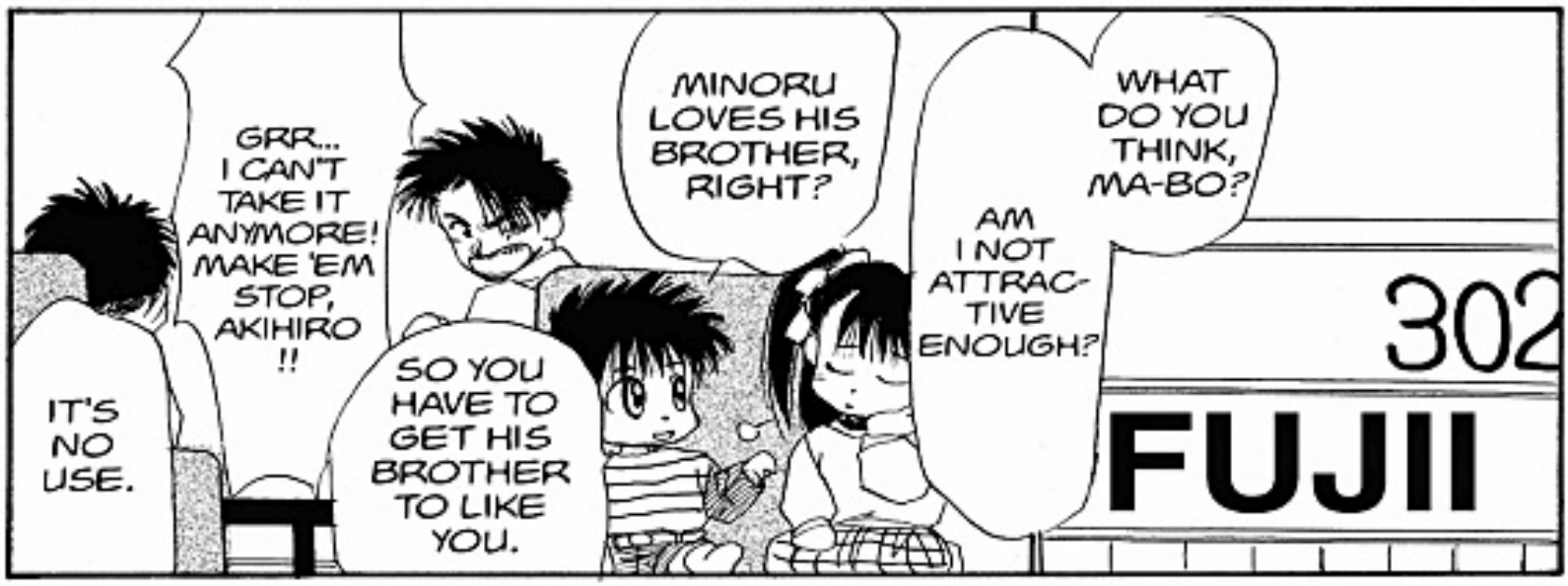
SPLISH
WHUP
GON!
OH, THERE SHE IS. HIRO'S OVER HERE, GON.
...
HIC
!
HIC
MINORU
...

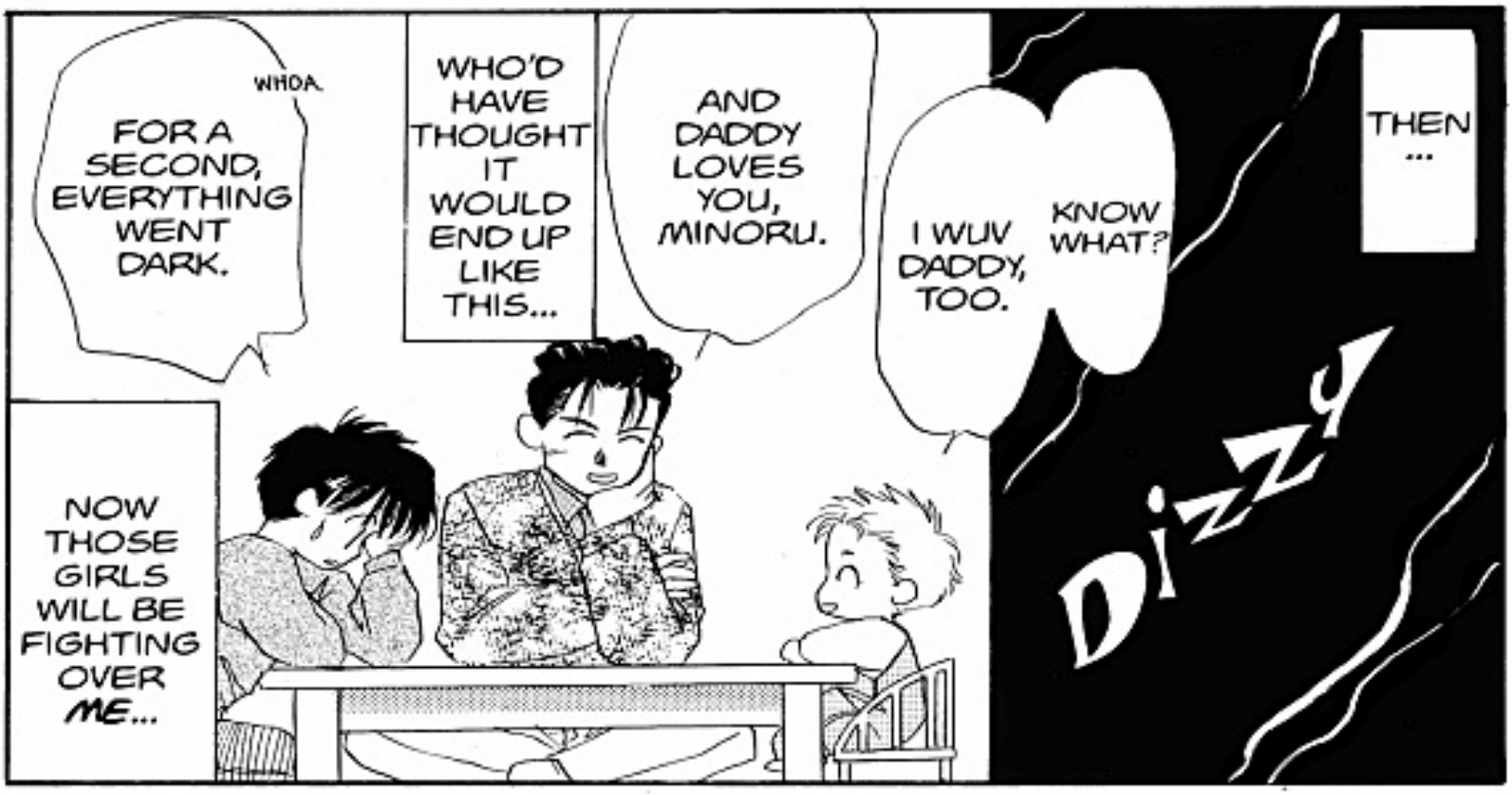
MINORU?
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

HE-OH.
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
SPLASH
SAWEE!
WAAAH
THANK YOU!

OGAY.
OGAY.
OGAY.
OGAY.
OGAY.
MINORU!
?
BLUSH
HE'S SO CUTE.
BWAZA!
LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT, ONCE AND FOR ALL!! MINORU, WHO DO YOU LOVE?
GON...

UM... TADASHI, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THIS BEFORE, BUT...
THE NURSERY SCHOOL HAS A SPRING BREAK TOO.
YEAH.
NOW LISTEN, HIRO...
IF YOU WANNA WIN MINORU'S HEART, YOU GOTTA GET TAKUYA TO LIKE YOU.
GOTOH LIQUOR
GOTOH
XXX-OOOO

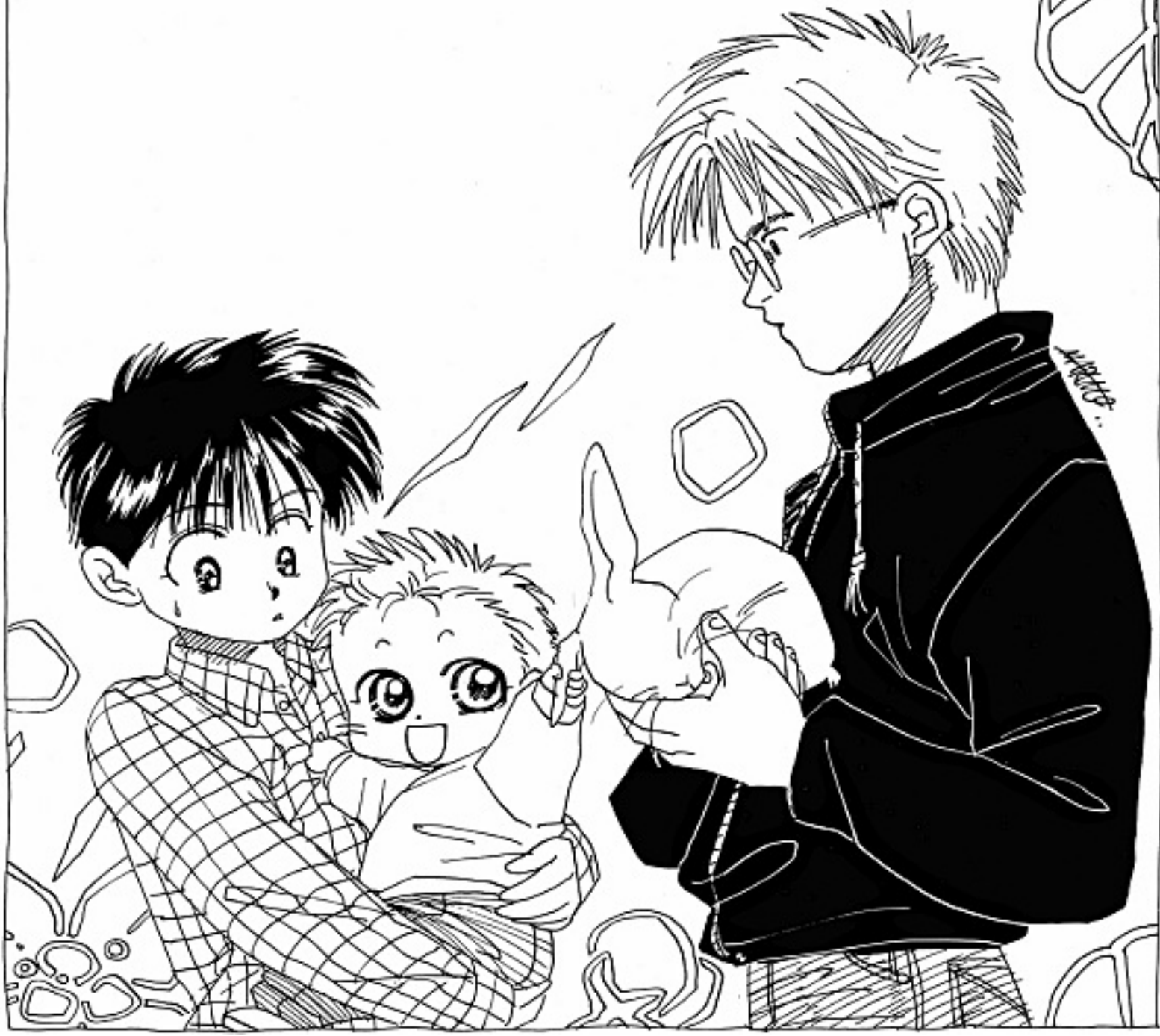

IT'S NO USE.
GRR... I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! MAKE 'EM STOP, AKIHIRO !!
SO YOU HAVE TO GET HIS BROTHER TO LIKE YOU.
MINORU LOVES HIS BROTHER, RIGHT?
AM I NOT ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MA-BO?
302
FUJII

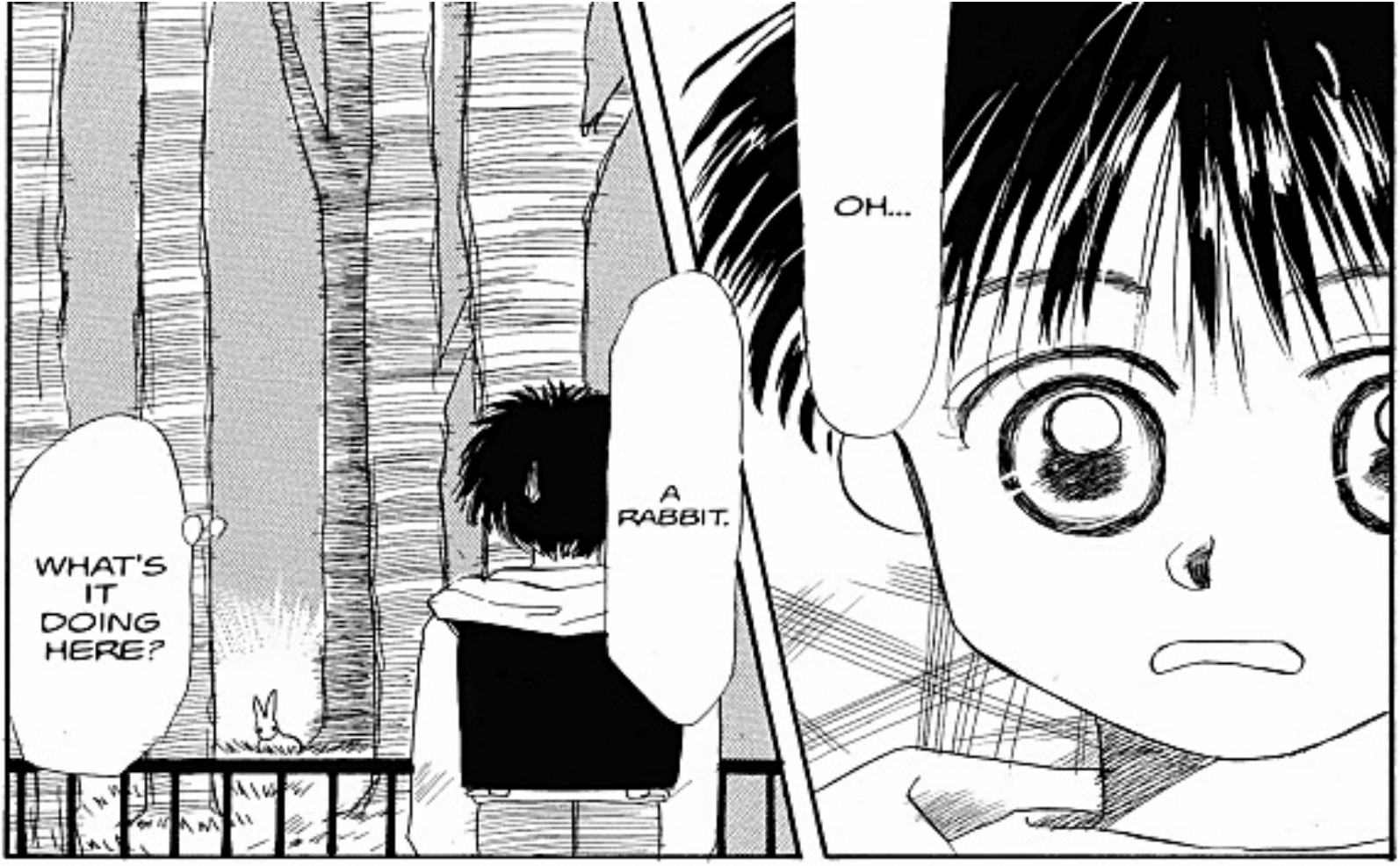

WHOA.
FOR A SECOND, EVERYTHING WENT DARK.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD END UP LIKE THIS...
AND DADDY LOVES YOU, MINORU.
I WUV DADDY, TOO.
KNOW WHAT?
THEN ...
Dizzy
NOW THOSE GIRLS WILL BE FIGHTING OVER ME...

CHAPTER 9/THE END

BABY & Me

CHAPTER 10




WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
A RABBIT.
OH...

MR.MR
MR.MR
KUMANOI CITY SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO. 2
TWITCH
FOR SOME REASON ...
...IT LOOKED A LITTLE FAMILIAR.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER SEEN A LIVE RABBIT.

BUNNY?
MINORU, I SAW A BUNNY ON THE WAY HERE.
NOW I KNOW. IT LOOKED LIKE MINORU.
HUH?
BWAZA ... ♡
I WONDER WHAT IT WAS DOING IN THE PARK.
HMM ...
THAT'S NOT WHAT A BUNNY SAYS, MINORU.
BUNNY WABBIT? MEOW, MEOW!
BAA, BAA!
MINORU DANCING
IT DOESN'T SAY THAT, EITHER.
DID IT ESCAPE FROM ITS OWNER?
DID SOMEONE DUMP IT THERE?

WE HAVE TO BE QUIET, MINORU!
GO SEE BUNNY?
DO N ENT
SHHH ...
DO NOT ENTER
GO SEE BUNNY WABBIT!
!?
OH!
!!
KRASH
BWAZA!
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
BWAZA!
STOP WIGGLING!

THERE'S THE BUNNY.
LOOK ...
HE RUNS JUST LIKE THE RABBIT.
HOP
BUNNY WABBIT!
HOP
WIP
HOP
HOP
BUNNY WABBIT.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUH?
COCOA
SANDWICHES
AAAH!!
UM...
THEY'VE FOUND US!!
OH NO!

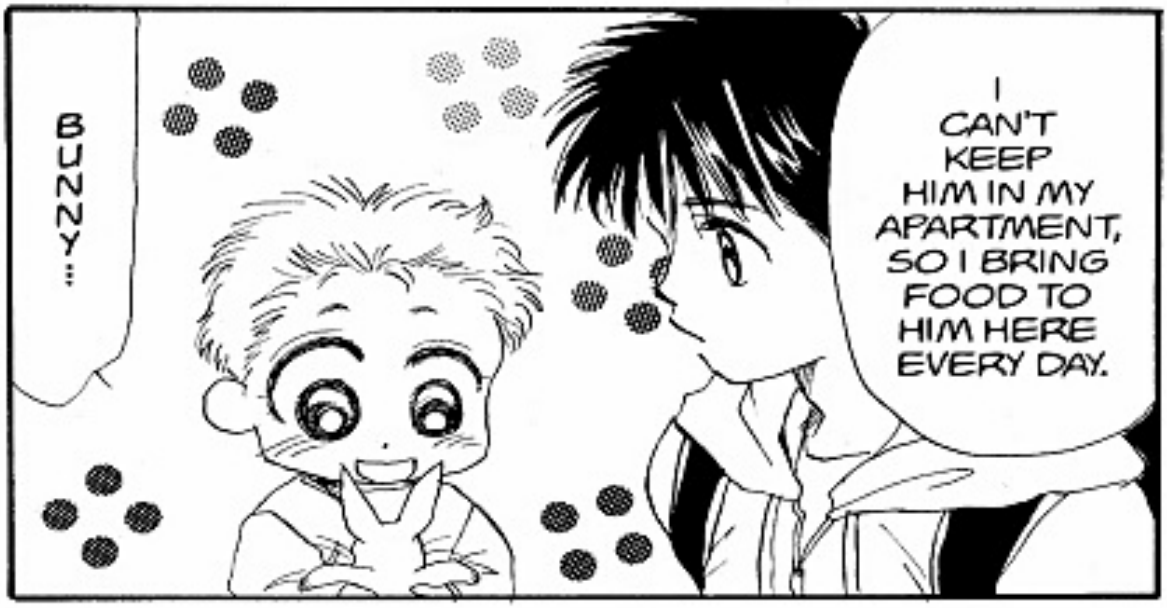
IS THAT YOUR RABBIT?
FREEZE
N-NO, OF COURSE NOT.
I WAS ...
I WAS JUST PASSING BY...
IT SURE SEEMS TO LIKE YOU.
HUH?
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE.
?
THIS RABBIT, WELL...
I LEFT HIM HERE.
WHAT?!
THAT'S TERRIBLE! WHY WOULD YOU DO A THING LIKE THAT?
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT.
I CAME TO TOKYO THREE YEARS AGO.
I WAS LONELY LIVING ALL BY MYSELF, SO ONE DAY I JUST BOUGHT A RABBIT.

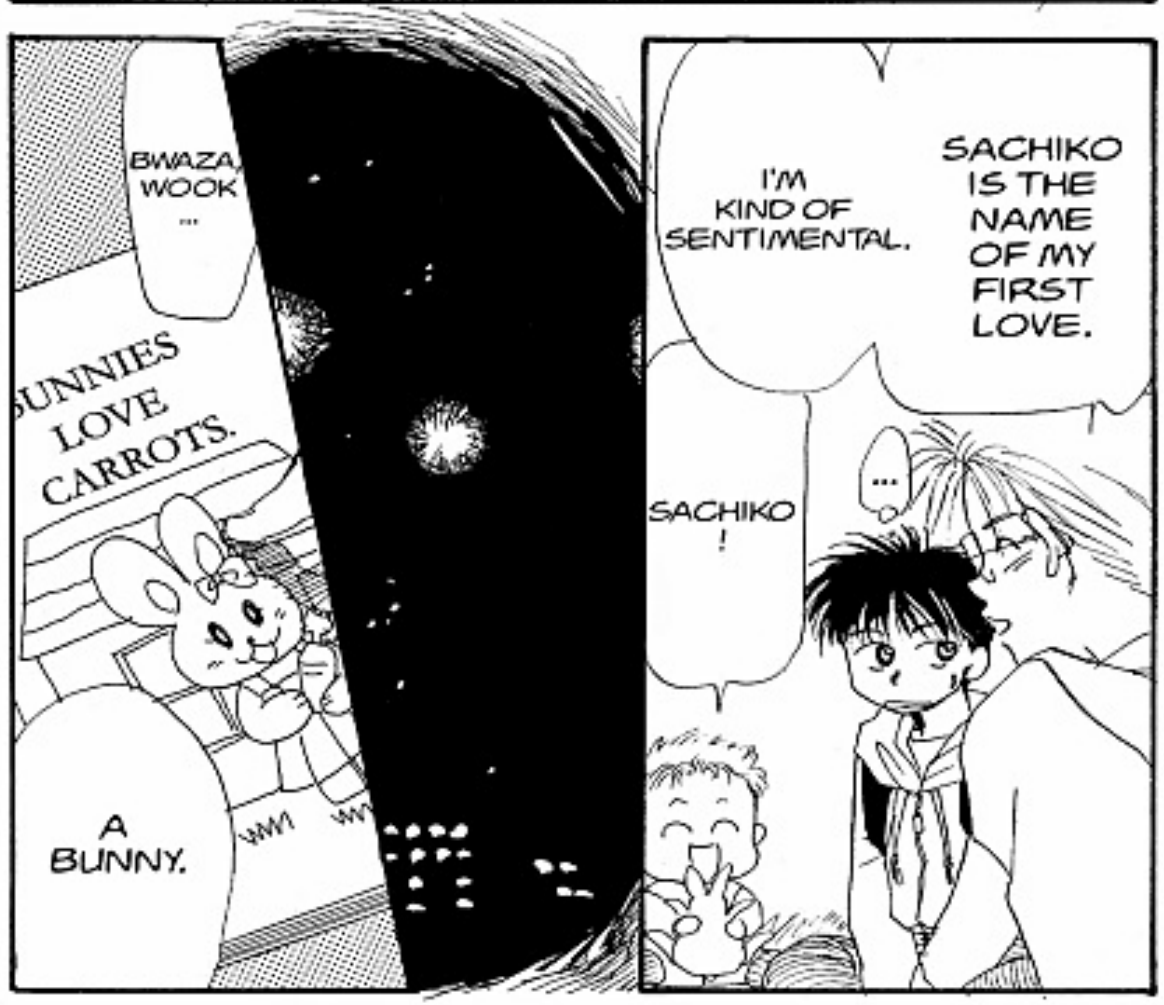
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT, AS LONG AS THE OTHER TENANTS DIDN'T FIND OUT.
THEN ONE DAY ...
A PACKAGE CAME FOR YOU...
...MY LAND-LORD WALKED IN.
HE'S PLAYING WITH IT.
HEY!
NO PETS ALLOWED! EITHER IT GOES OR YOU GO!
ALL RIGHT!
AND SO...
I LEFT HIM HERE, BUT...
I GOT WORRIED SO I CAME LOOKING FOR HIM.
GOODBYE
AND THEN ...
HE WAS ALL SCRUFFY-LOOKING AND HE RUBBED UP AGAINST MY LEG WHEN HE SAW ME.
HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BE A WILD RABBIT.
HMPH
I WAS AFRAID HE WAS DEAD.
YOU'RE SO CUTE...
LOST WEIGHT.

A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME THAT THIS STORY ABOUT SACHIKO REALLY MADE THEM CRY. I DREW IT DURING A TIME WHEN I WAS SQUIRMING AROUND, FEELING FRUSTRATED, AND WANTING TO DRAW ADULT CHARACTERS, SO THOSE COMMENTS MADE ME VERY HAPPY. BUT, AS ALWAYS, I HAD TO DO IT IN A HURRY, SO MY MANUSCRIPT WAS VERY MESSY.

,YOU SEE, I MOVED TO TOKYO TWO YEARS / AGO, SO PARDON MY ACCENT.

(I RECEIVED LESSONS IN THE KANSAI DIALECT FROM A NATIVE SPEAKER, BUT I HAD TO GIVE AN EXCUSE.) I'D LIKE TO THANK MY SISTER WHO STAYED OVERNIGHT TO HELP ME PASTE THE TONE EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD TO WORK THE NEXT DAY. I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK RIE ARAI, THE QUEEN OF FOUR-FRAME COMICS FOR GIRLS, FOR HELPING ME EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS REALLY BUSY HERSELF. I'LL RETURN YOUR CDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANKS ALSO TO LIVELY YOUNG NAHIRA YAMADA, WHO ALWAYS TALKS TO ME; TO MY EDITORS WHO HAVE NEVER GIVEN UP ON ME; AND MR. NAGASE AND THE CLUB MEMBERS; AND TO THE READERS WHO SEND ME SO MANY LETTERS EVERY MONTH; AND TO THE MEN WHO ARE READING THIS; AND TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SENT ME LETTERS AND GIFTS. I HOPE YOU'LL ALL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ME.





THROB
THESE ARE CANDIED APPLES
ERE'S ESTIVAL TODAY.
THROB
C'MON, MINORU, I'M SLEEPY.
BWAZA... WOTS AN' WOTS O' BUNNIES.
THAT'S A BUNNY ALL RIGHT.
HUH? YEAH...
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
MINORU'S HOOKED ...
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
HMM ...
SPELLBOUND
OH ...
YOU'RE AWAKE, MINORU?
MRMR
MRMR
HERE YOU GO!
SHOPPING MALL
SAWADA CANDIES
SALON

WHAP
HUH?
TAKUYA, I HAVE TO GO TO THE BOOKSTORE. WAIT FOR ME HERE, OKAY?
UMINO BOOKSTORE
OKAY.
HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU A BALLOON, MINORU.
A BUNNY!
SKWEEK
MARIMO PHARMACY
MY COUNTER-ATTACK!
HEY, YOU KIDS! STOP KICKING ME! TAKE THIS-- BUNNY PUNCH!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
WAAH!
...
IT'S ME.
OH!
PHEW, IT'S HOT.
POP
...BUT IT'S NOT SO BAD ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT.
THERE ARE BETTER-PAYING JOBS...
YOU WORK PART-TIME AT THE MALL?
GET HIM!
THWAK
THWAK
RAAA
KICKING
MARIMO PHARMACY

CHING
THAT COMES TO 2,600 YEN.
BOOKS
BUNNY WABBIT STWONG ...
MARIMO PHARMA?
AMAZED
...
MINORU ...
YOU WANNA GO SEE SACHIKO LATER?
NO THANKS.
WOULD YOU LIKE A BAG?
YOUR CHANGE IS 400 YEN.
OUT OF 3,000 YEN...
THAT GUY IN THE RABBIT COSTUME IS A LITTLE STRANGE.
STARE
UH, SURE ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

...YO-GURT...
...MILK...
HE LIKES...
MILK
YOU CAN'T FEED SACHIKO RAW VEGETABLES.
HE GETS SICK.
...BUT THE REST JUST SOUNDS LIKE LEFTOVERS FROM YOUR LUNCH.
MILK AND YOGURT, MAYBE...
OOPS
WELL, IT BEATS THROWING THE STUFF AWAY.
...AND PICKLES.
...FROM A RICE BALL...
...THE DRIED SEA-WEED WRAP-PING...
MUNCH MUNCH
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
UH...
...
ENRAPTURED
ENTHRALLED
BESIDES, HE REALLY SEEMS TO ENJOY IT.
MUNCH
MUNCH

HE THINKS MAYBE YOU LIKE THE GIRL WHO WORKS THERE.
HUH?
MY DAD SAYS YOU'RE ALWAYS HANGING AROUND IN FRONT OF THE BOOKSTORE.
SO?
WHAT IF I DO?
BLUSH
BUT YOU SAID SHE WAS YOUR FIRST LOVE...
HEY...
HOW OLD ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
MAYBE...
YOU SHOULD'VE NAMED YOUR RABBIT AFTER HER?
LOOK ...
THAT GIRL...
...IS SACHIKO!

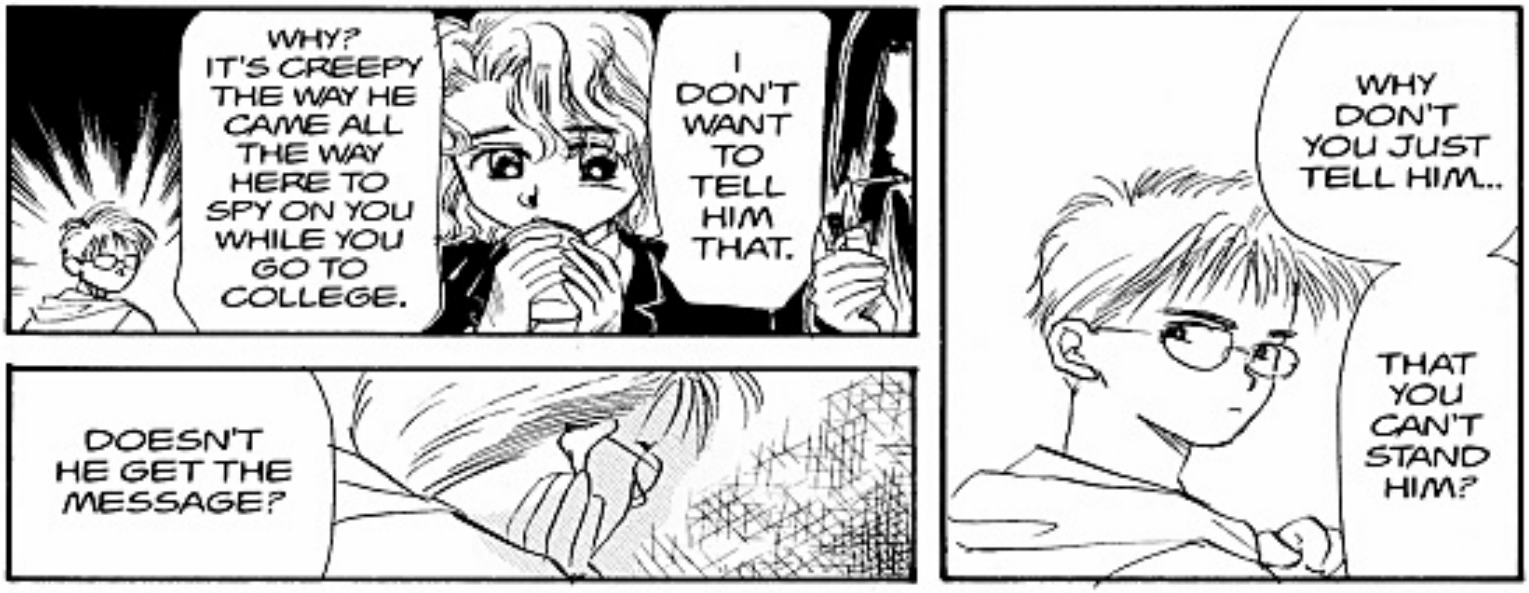
IT WASN'T ONE-SIDED!!
WOW. SO IT WAS A ONE-SIDED LOVE FOR 12...13 YEARS?
I HAVE TO EXPLAIN ...
I'M 21, BUT...
I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER WHEN I WAS 9.
SHE ...
...MOVED AWAY WHEN WE WERE 15.
THAT'S WHY I WORKED SO HARD TO GET INTO A COLLEGE IN TOKYO.
EVEN AFTER SHE MOVED, WE CALLED AND WROTE TO EACH OTHER.
SOB
SOB
WE WERE A COUPLE! WE LOVED EACH OTHER!
...SOMETIMES CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE PEOPLE.
BUT...

UMINO BOOKST
THAT'LL BE 320 YEN.
HYONTA THE RABBIT
I'LL TAKE THIS.
...
THANK YOU.
SKWEEK SKWEEK
OH!
BUNNY WABBIT!
KLAK
HOP HOP
WHAP
HERE'S A FREE...
...BEAR ERASER.

GO AWAY!!
I DON'T GET IT.
ISN'T HE AFRAID...
...THAT SHE'LL END UP HATING HIM?
TROMP
TROMP
SURE, I'M AFRAID ...
TWITCH
TWITCH
I'M HURT...
...BUT I STILL LOVE HER.
ANYWAY ...
SHE TELLS ME TO GO AWAY, BUT SHE DOESN'T TELL ME HOW SHE REALLY FEELS.
...SOMETIMES CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE PEOPLE.

SACHIKO HAS CHANGED.
SHE EVEN PERMED HER HAIR.
THAT'S STRANGE...
...SHE DIDN'T HAVE A KANSAI* ACCENT.
MRMR
SACHIKO, IS THAT GUY STILL STALKING YOU?
SHE THINKS SHE'S TOO GOOD FOR ME NOW, I GUESS.

*THE REGION AROUND OSAKA, IN WESTERN JAPAN.


WHY? IT'S CREEPY THE WAY HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO SPY ON YOU WHILE YOU GO TO COLLEGE.
I DON'T WANT TO TELL HIM THAT.
DOESN'T HE GET THE MESSAGE?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HIM...
THAT YOU CAN'T STAND HIM?

TAKE CARE.
SACHIKO
P.S. SEE YOU
AT COLLEGE
IN THE SPRING
I SEE...
BLAH
KRUNCH
BLAH
THEY'RE RIGHT...
SWAK

AFTER THIS...
I HATE MYSELF FOR LOVING YOU!!
!!
I'M A FOOL!
I...
...YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SO FROM THE START!!
IF YOU DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU...
I...
...BECAUSE YOU WERE HERE, I...
IT'S NOT EASY LIVING IN THIS CITY, BUT...
MRMR
MRMR
I'M SUCH A FOOL!

PLEASE... WAIT!
KOJI!
KOJI!
VROOOM
SKREECH
SHOE!
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
!!

MINORU
...

KOJI
...
ｶｻｶｻ
ｶｻｶｻ

HE'S PROBABLY GETTING YOGURT TODAY.
YOGOOT
...

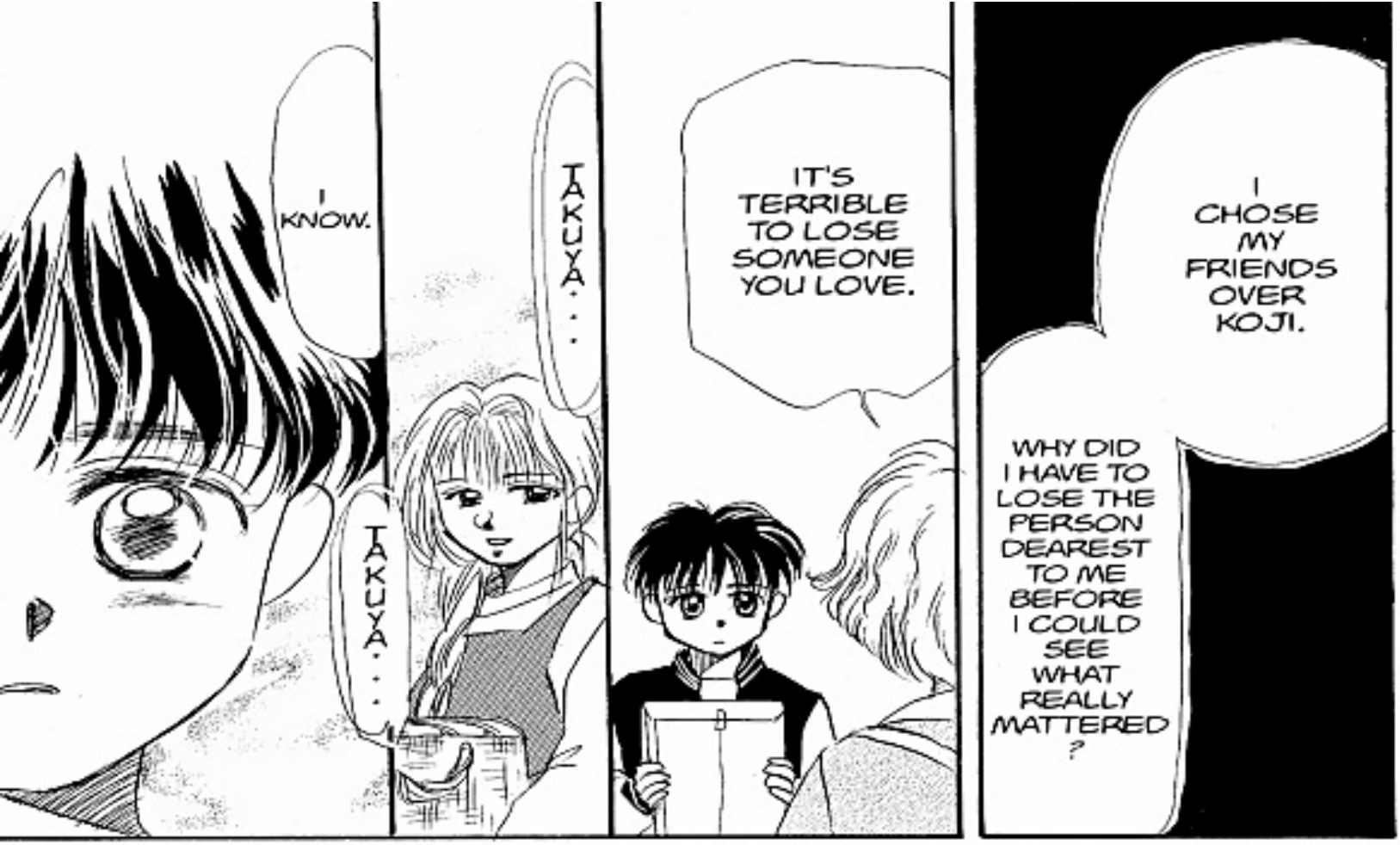
SACHI-KO!
YOU WANNA GO SEE SACHIKO?

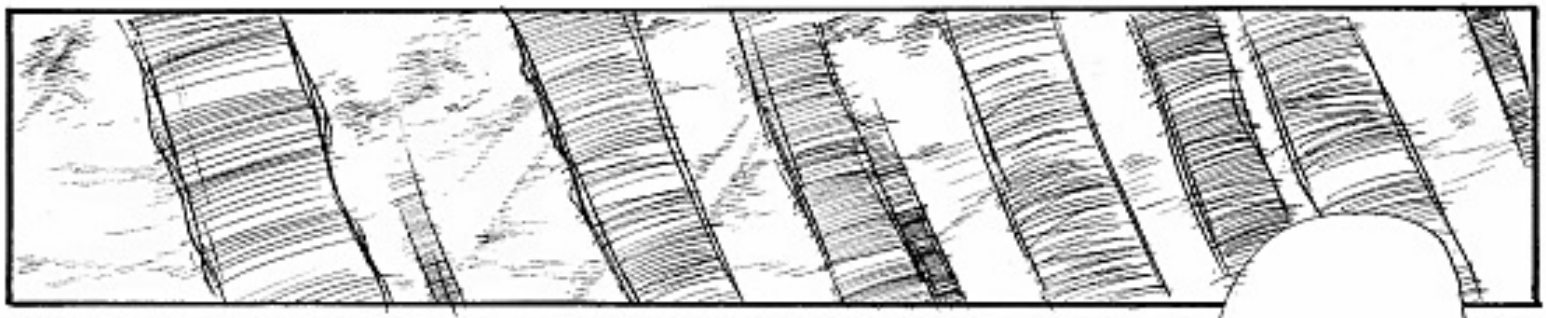
KOJI...
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
IF YOU DIE...
...I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
I...
I NEVER TOLD YOU MY FEELINGS ...
I WONDER WHERE KOJI IS.
KOJI.
WE WENT TO VISIT SACHIKO SEVERAL TIMES, BUT...

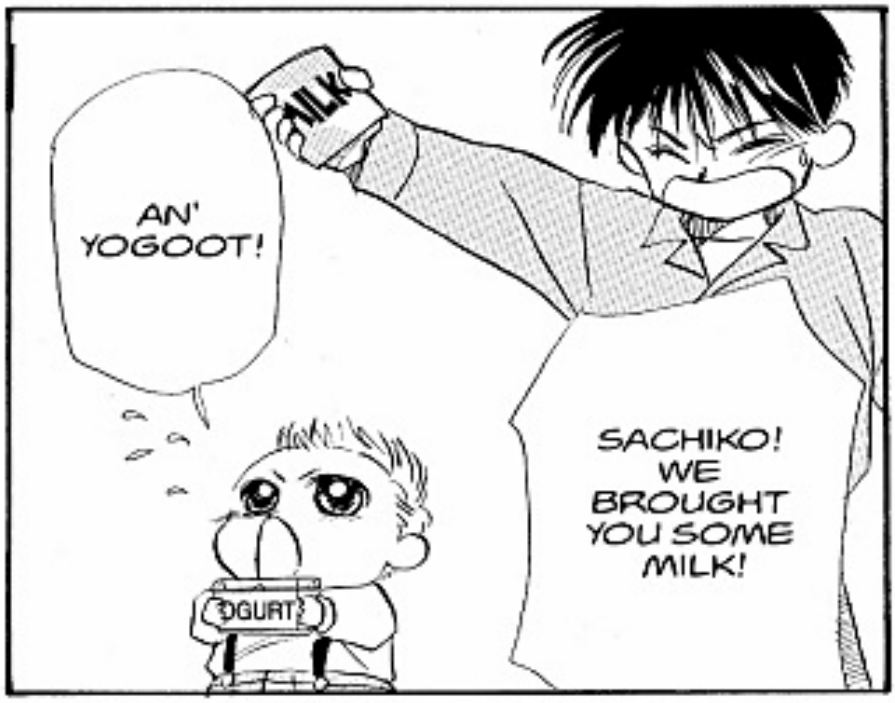
WE NEVER SAW KOJI AGAIN.
HE SAID THAT ONE DIDN'T PAY VERY WELL.
MAYBE HE GOT ANOTHER JOB.
YACK YACK
WE HAVEN'T SEEN THAT RABBIT PASSING OUT BALLOONS LATELY, HAVE WE?
DID HE QUIT?
THAT MAN WHO USED TO PASS OUT BAL-LOONS...
HUH?
YES?
EXCUSE ME...
MARIMO PHARMACY
!!
WELL...
POOR THING. HE WAS SO YOUNG...
DID YOU KNOW HIM?
?

THAT'S 380 YEN.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MAN IN THE RABBIT SUIT DIED?
I'LL TAKE THIS.
PATE
I...
I WAS WITH HIM.
YES. I KNOW.
...HE TOLD ME...
...THAT CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED YOU.

I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT. MY FRIENDS ALWAYS MADE FUN OF HIM.
OH.
WERE YOU AND KOJI GOOD FRIENDS?
NOT REALLY, BUT HE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I NEVER REALIZED HOW SHALLOW I WAS.
BUT...
...WITHOUT FRIENDS LIKE THOSE.
MAYBE YOU'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF...
I THOUGHT IF HE WASN'T AROUND ME, HE WOULDN'T GET TEASED.


I KNOW.
TAKUYA...
TAKUYA...
IT'S TERRIBLE TO LOSE SOMEONE YOU LOVE.
I CHOSE MY FRIENDS OVER KOJI.
WHY DID I HAVE TO LOSE THE PERSON DEAREST TO ME BEFORE I COULD SEE WHAT REALLY MATTERED?

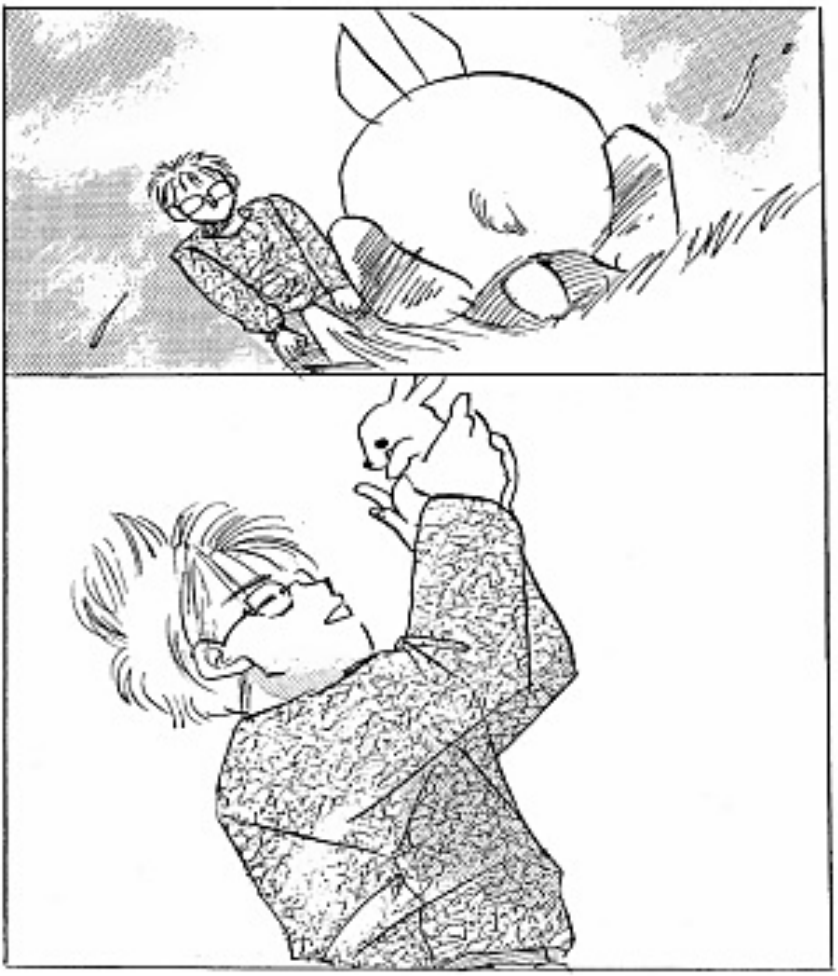


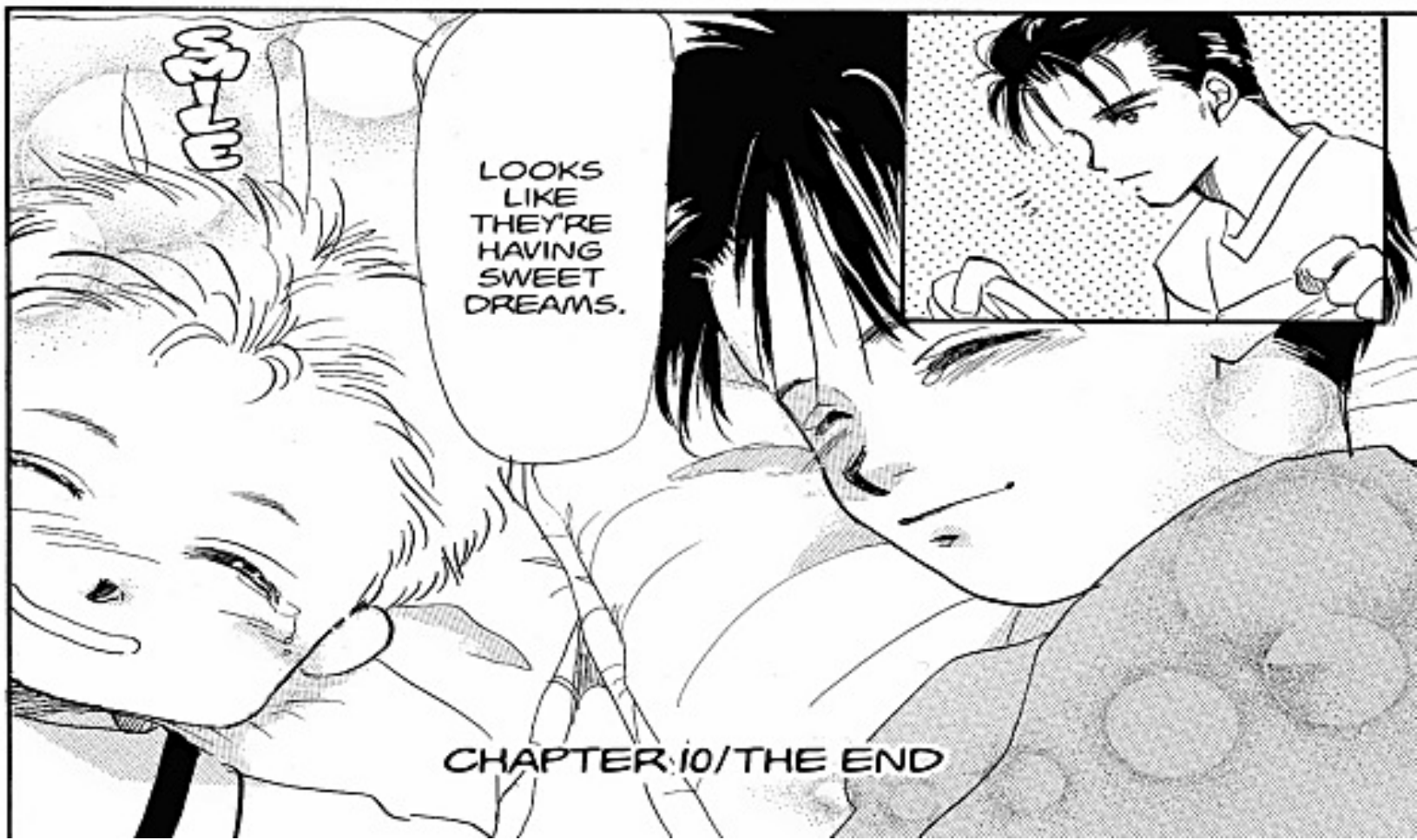

AN' YOGOOT!
MILK
YOGURT
SACHIKO! WE BROUGHT YOU SOME MILK!

I HOPE SACHIKO'S OKAY.
SACHI-XO...

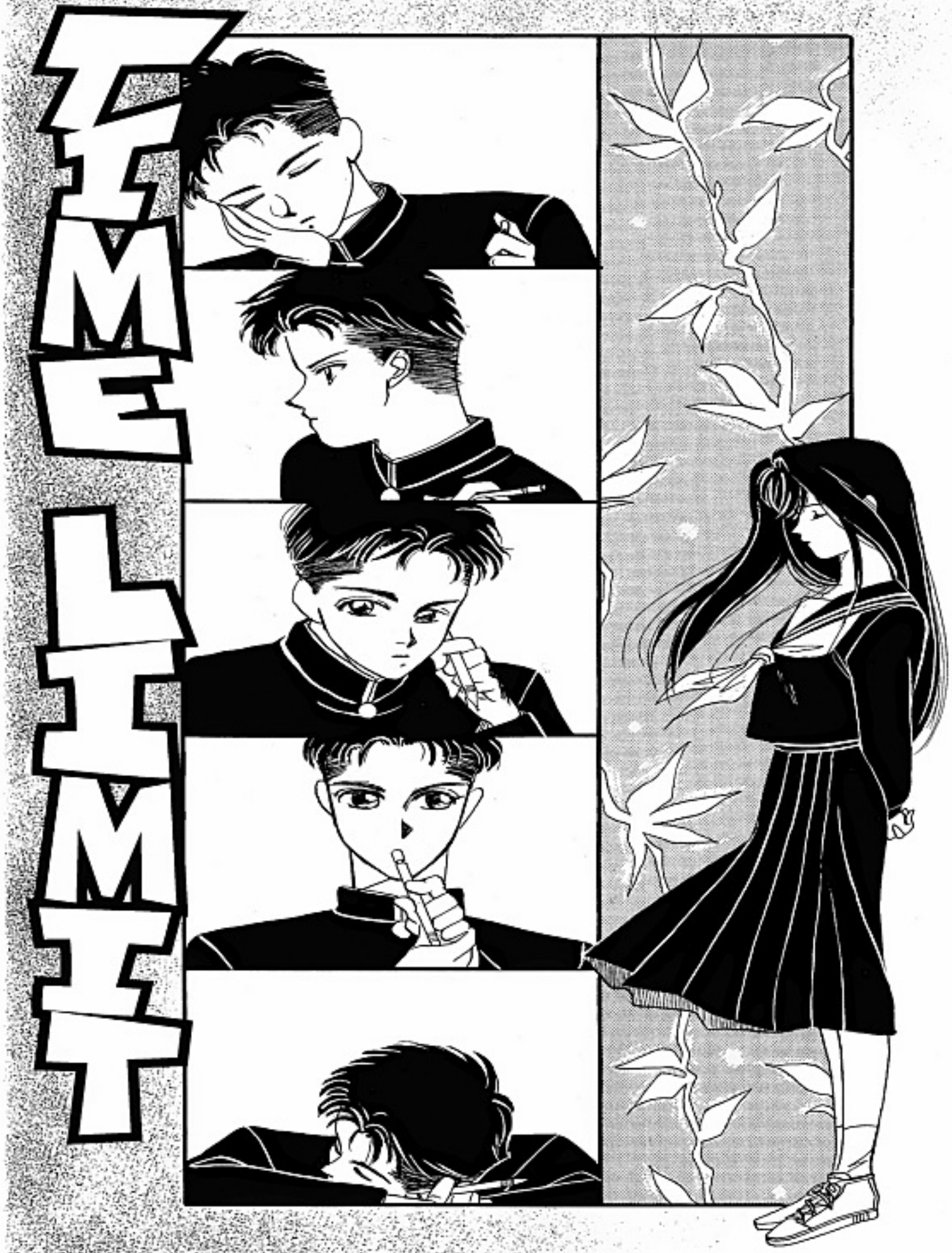
HUH?
BWAZA, SACHIKO!
!!
HEY, THERE'S A HOLE!
SACHIKO!
RABBIT DROPPINGS. THIS IS WHERE HE LIVES.
SACHIKO SWEEPING ...
WAKE HIM UP.
BWAZA ...
...

...WAS WAITING FOR KOJI.
MINORU...
SACHIKO ISN'T...
...
HE'S NOT GOING TO WAKE UP.
I THINK SACHIKO...
WAAH!!
PLUP PLUP PLUP
SACHIKO!!!!
MAYBE THAT WOMAN ...
...WAS WAITING FOR KOJI, TOO.

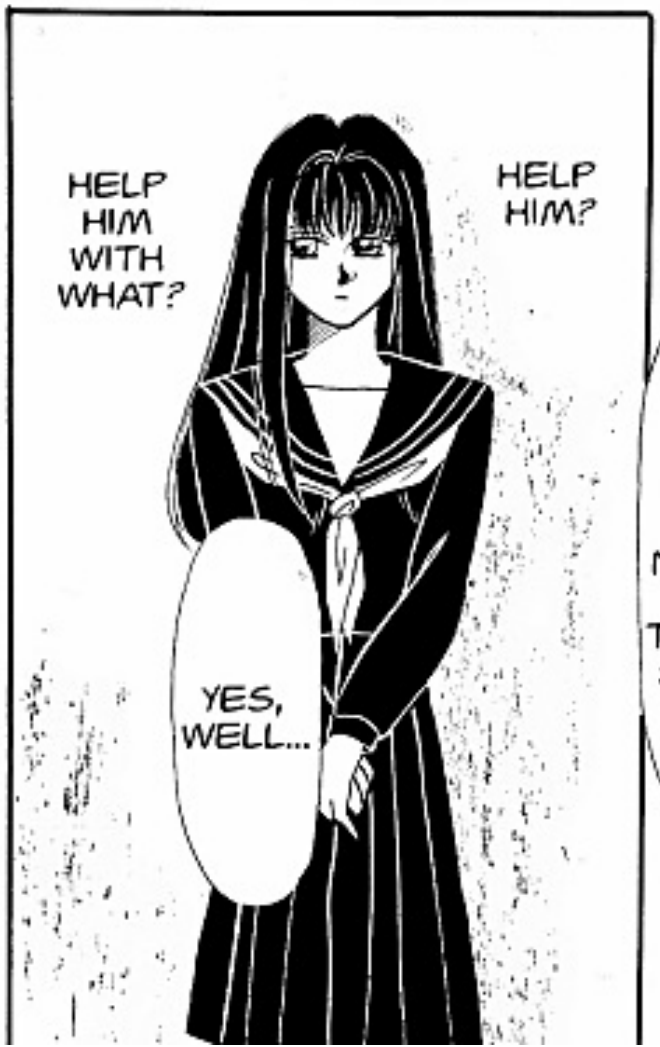




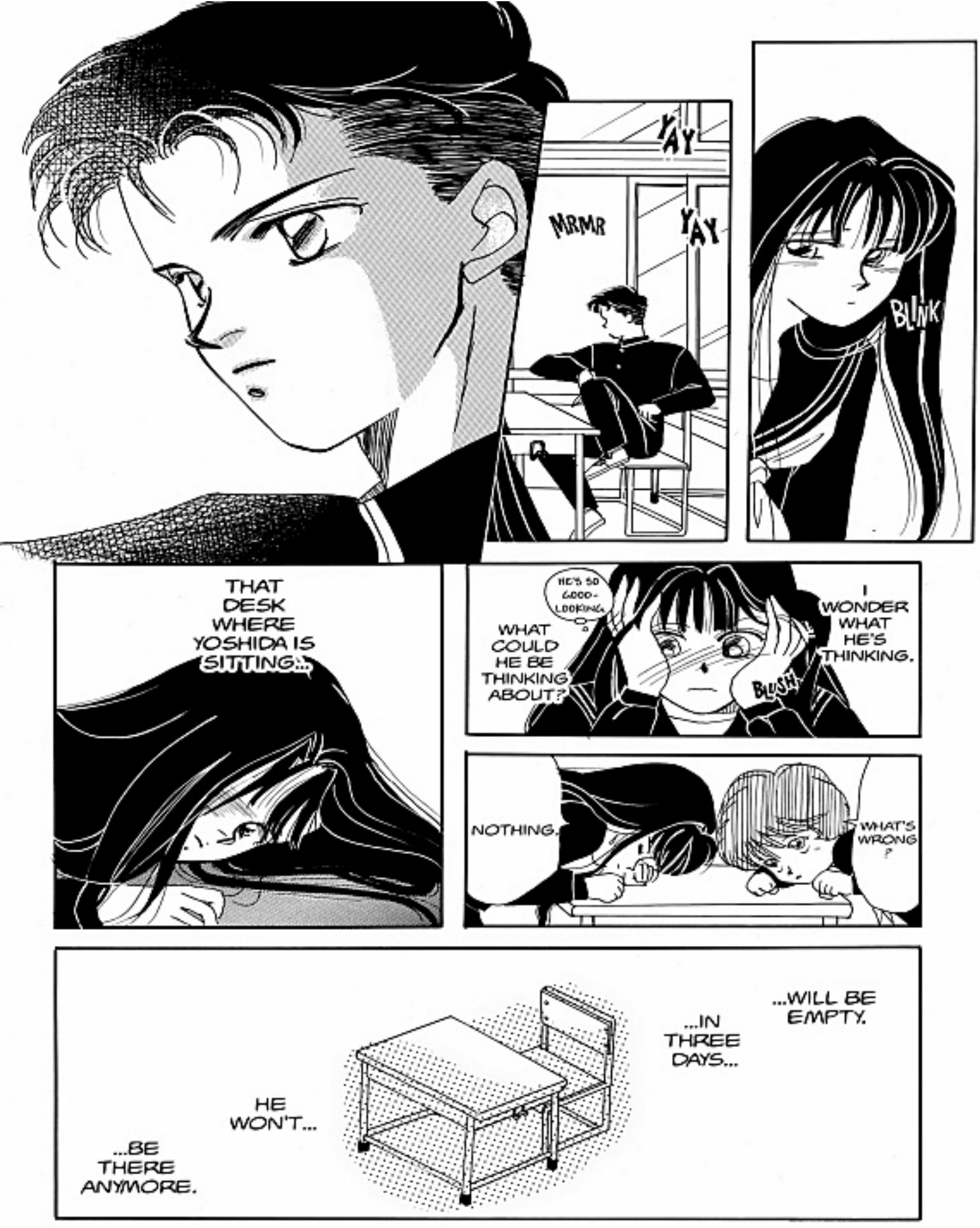
CHAPTER 10/THE END


TIME

I LOVE YOSHIDA.



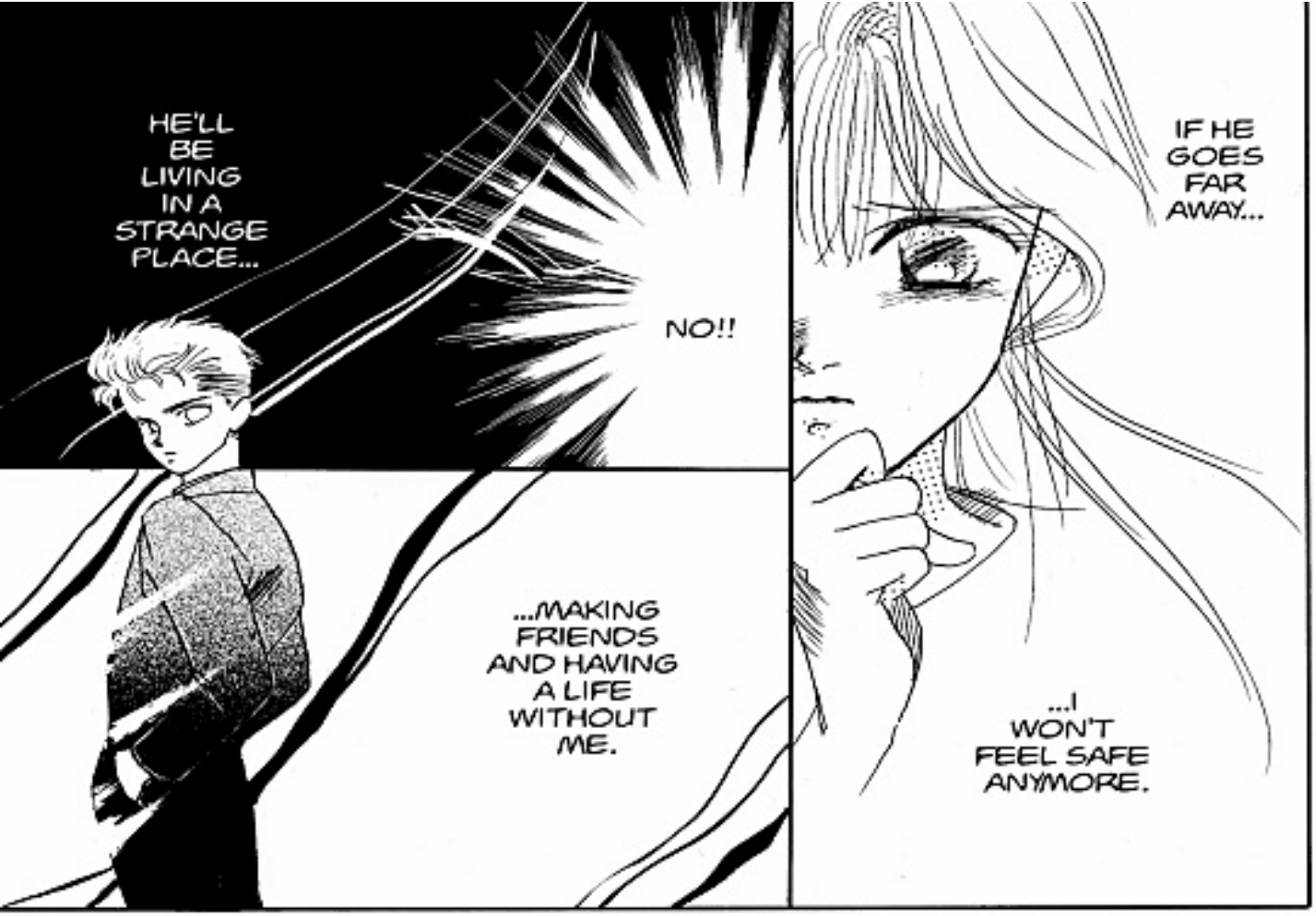
I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOSHIDA IN EIGHTH GRADE...
AT THE SPORTS DAY FESTIVAL.
HE WAS THE BOY WHO ALWAYS SAT IN THE CORNER OF THE CLASSROOM...
TO ME...
YOSHIDA WILL BE TRANS-FERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL IN THREE DAYS.
WHAT DID HE WANT?
WELL, KYOKO?
OH?
MR-MR
MR-MR
NOTHING IMPORTANT.
NOTHING HAS CHANGED EXCEPT THAT MY HAIR IS LONGER.
THAT WAS THREE YEARS AGO...
...HE LOOKED LIKE A HERO.

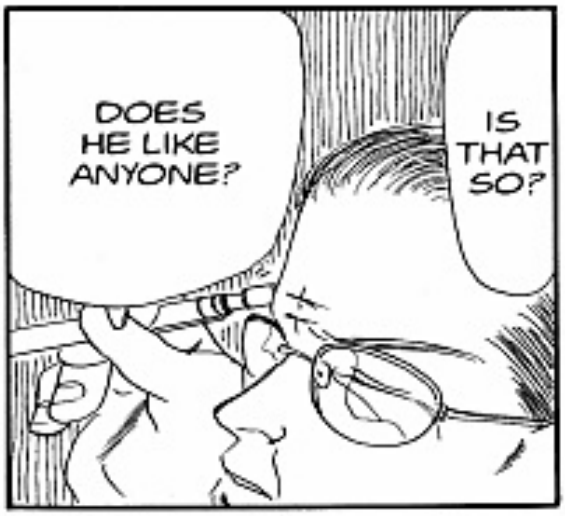

YAY
MRMR
YAY
BLINK
THAT DESK WHERE YOSHIDA IS SITTING...
HE'S SO GOOD-LOOKING
WHAT COULD HE BE THINKING ABOUT?
I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINKING.
BLUSH
NOTHING.
WHAT'S WRONG?
...WILL BE EMPTY.
...IN THREE DAYS...
HE WON'T...
...BE THERE ANYMORE.

IN JUST...
...THREE MORE DAYS,
...WILL BE GONE.
YOSHIDA...
THERE'S A TIME LIMIT ON YOUR FEELINGS.
KYOKO MIYAKE...
KYOKO
...
WHY DON'T YOU LET YOUR HAIR GROW?
YOSHIDA!!
WHAT WILL I DO?
YOSHIDA!!
I WANT TO CRY.

OH...
OUR EYES MET!!
DOES HE KNOW I WAS LOOKING AT HIM?!
WHUP
OH, YOSHIDA...

BUT...
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING AT, KYOKO?
...AND HE'S SMART.
YOSHIDA IS SO HANDSOME.
HE'S GOOD AT SPORTS...
I'VE NEVER HEARD...
...THAT HE LIKES ANYONE.
THAT'S WHY...
...I FELT SAFE LOVING HIM.

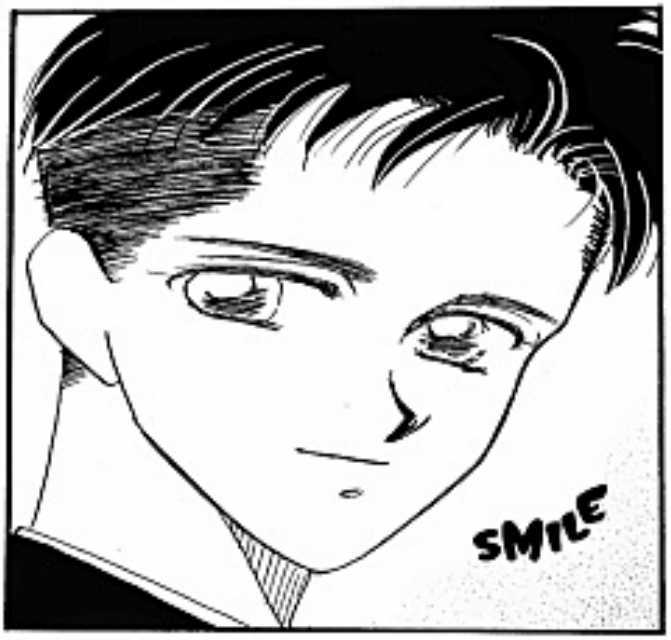

HE'LL BE LIVING IN A STRANGE PLACE...
NO!!
IF HE GOES FAR AWAY...
...MAKING FRIENDS AND HAVING A LIFE WITHOUT ME.
...I WON'T FEEL SAFE ANYMORE.


DOES HE LIKE ANYONE?
IS THAT SO?

MIYAKE, HOW'S YOSHIDA DOING?
HUH? THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
RING RING
MRMR

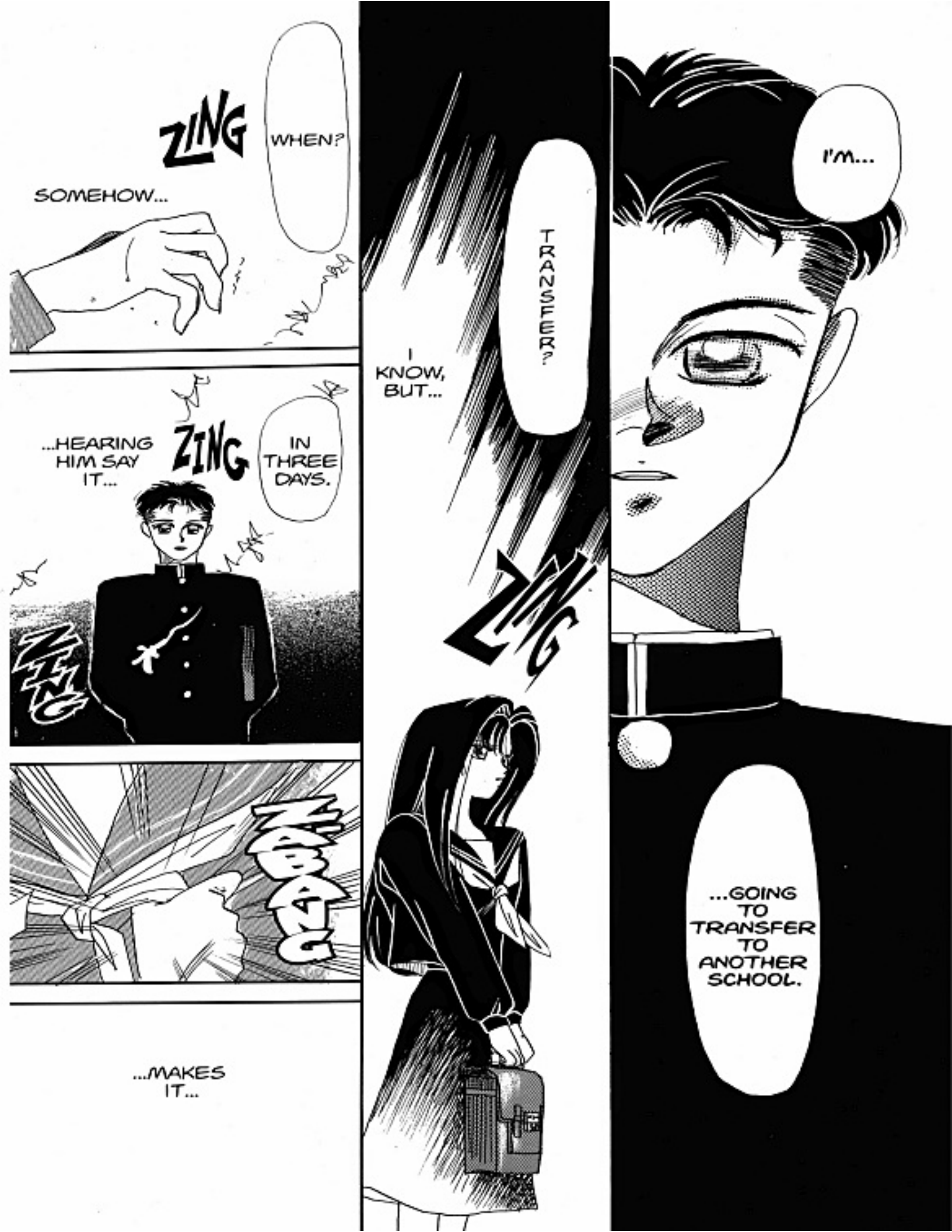
I'VE COLLECTED THE SURVEYS.
OH, THANK YOU.

PEOPLE SAY...



HE'S HARD TO GET TO KNOW.

NO.
...TALKED VERY MUCH, HAVE WE?
WE'VE NEVER ...
OH, I'M NOT IN A CLUB.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
TMP
KYOKO...
?


I'M...
...GOING TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.
TRANSFER?
I KNOW, BUT...
ZING
WHEN?
ZING
SOMEHOW...
...HEARING HIM SAY IT...
ZING
IN THREE DAYS.
ZING
GABAN
...MAKES IT...

KYOKO?
TMP
I-I'M GOING THIS WAY.
WELL, GOOD LUCK.
...GOING TO TRANSFER SCHOOLS.
I'M...
...HURT EVEN MORE.
AAH!
WUNK
WUMP

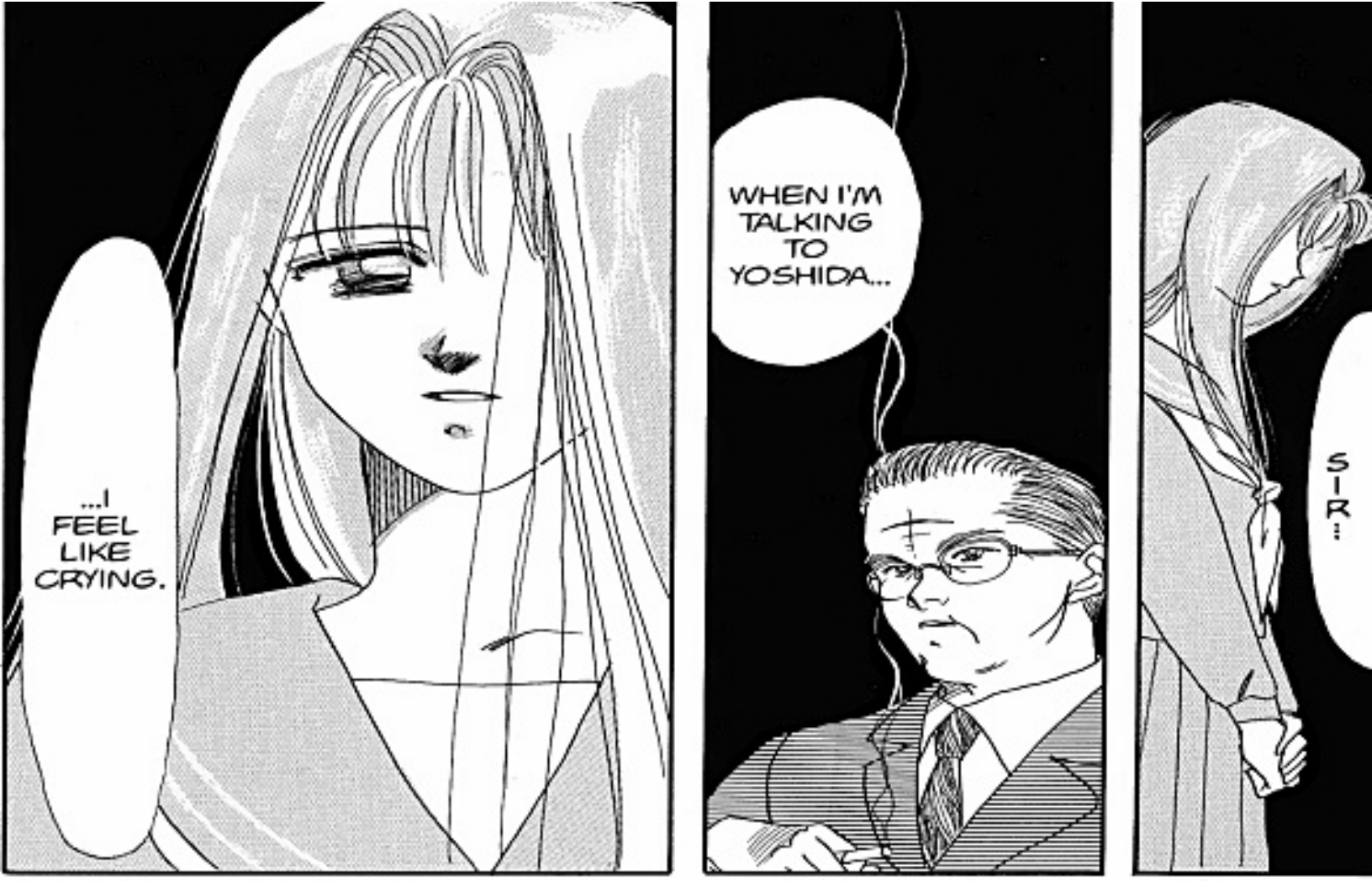
...BUT HE'S CRUEL.
SPLAT
YOSHIDA'S...
...GOOD-LOOKING...
OW...
OUCH...
IS YOSHIDA ...
...AB-SENT TODAY?
NOW THERE ARE ONLY TWO MORE DAYS...

WEIRD...
HE'S WEIRD.
WAAWAA
MR.MR MR MR
IS HE? HE'S SO QUIET, WHO'D NOTICE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOSHIDA...
YOSHIDA...
WHAT?
TELEPATHY.
I WAS SENDING TELEPATHIC MESSAGES.

YEAH.
IT IS COLD, HUH?
FWOO
IT'S SNOW-ING...
IT'S COLD ...
...WHEN YOSHIDA GOES AWAY?!
I...
WHAT WILL I DO...

WELL...
...ACCORDING TO HIS PARENTS, HE LEFT FOR SCHOOL AS USUAL.
MISS MIYAKE?
--YAKE?
AREN'T YOU FEELING WELL?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOSHIDA IS THINKING.
YOU KNOW, I...
...LET YOUR HAIR GROW?
WHY DON'T YOU...

YEAH.
...DO YOU THINK I'LL LOOK GOOD?
IF I LET MY HAIR GROW...
HE MADE A STRONG IMPRES-SION ON ME.
HE KEEPS TO HIM-SELF, BUT...
..FOR SOME REASON ...
IN MY DREAMS, I'M ALWAYS RUNNING OVER THE PLAINS OF AFRICA.
YOU RUN FAST, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S PROBABLY...
...WHAT I DID IN A PAST LIFE.
OVER THE VAST SAVANNAS, ALL BY MYSELF...

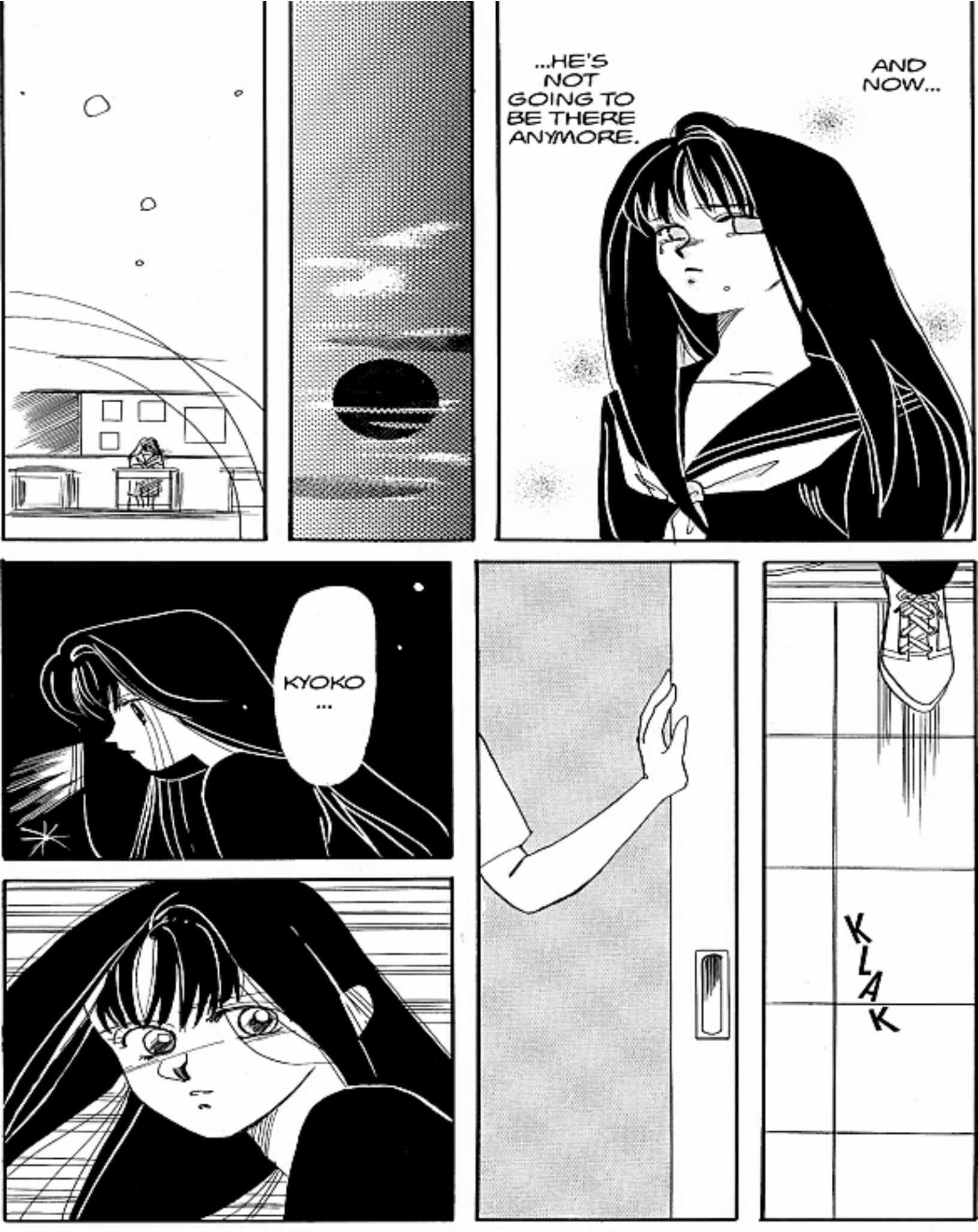


IN SPRING...

IN SUMMER...

IN FALL... IN WINTER...

ALL YEAR ROUND, YOSHIDA WAS ALWAYS THERE, IN THE CORNER OF MY EYE.


...HE'S NOT GOING TO BE THERE ANYMORE.
AND NOW...
KYOKO ...
KLAK

IT'S YOSHIDA ...
PLUP
IT'S YOSHIDA ...

IT'S TELEPATHY.
I KNEW YOU WERE HERE.

I'LL BE SAYING GOODBYE TO THIS PLACE.
TOMOR-ROW...

TOMORROW MORNING?

TO HAVE ONE LAST LOOK AROUND THE CITY. WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW MORNING.
WHERE DID YOU GO?

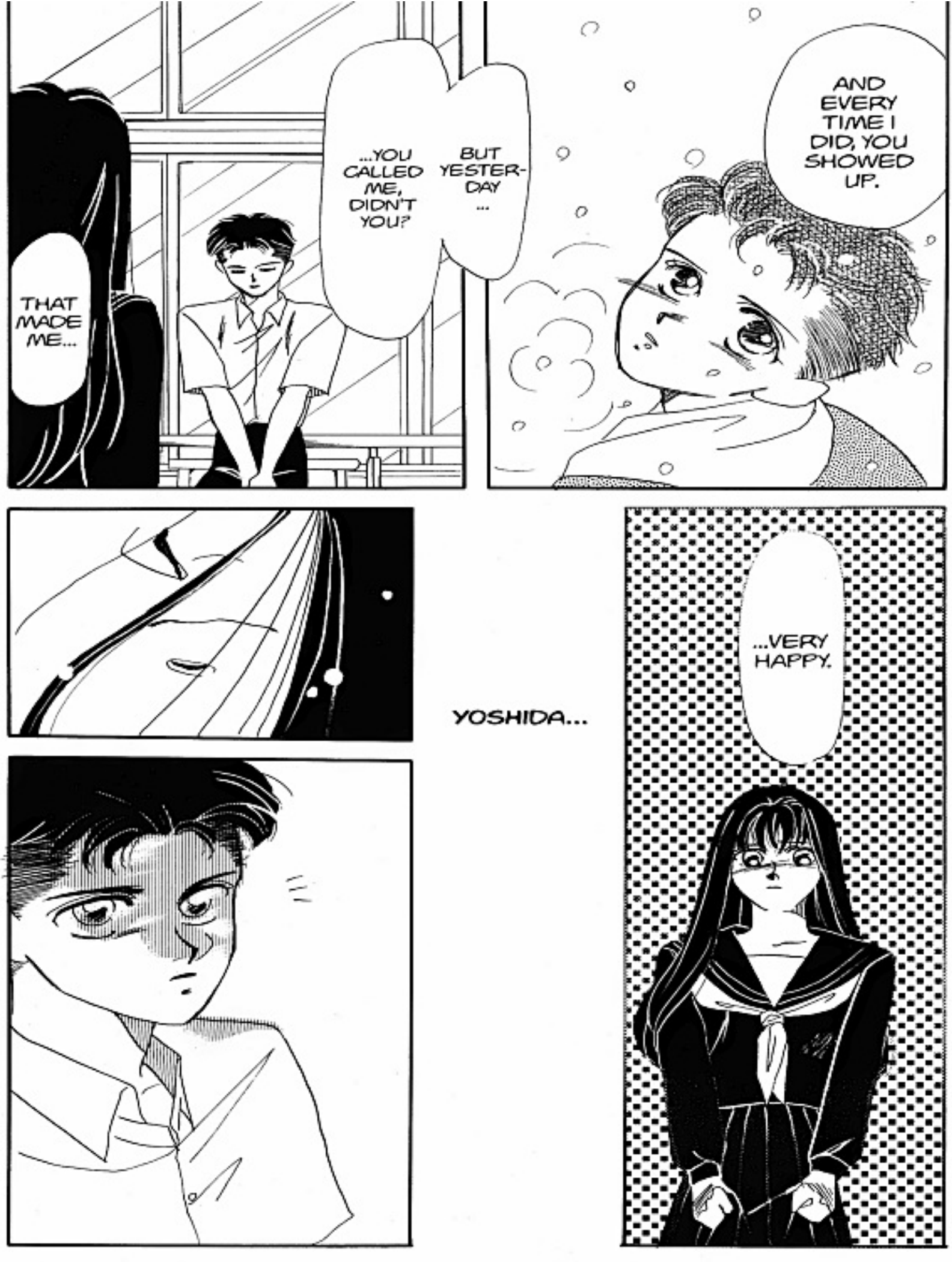
YES?

PLAK
SO...

YOU...
YOU LOVE ME, DON'T YOU?

KYOKO ...
...I HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO THIS DESK, TOO.

I'VE LOVED YOU TOO...
FOR A LONG TIME.
OH... MY MIND JUST WENT BLANK.
IT'S OKAY.
ALL THIS TIME...
I'VE BEEN SENDING YOU TELE-PATHIC MES-SAGES.


THAT MADE ME...
...YOU CALLED ME, DIDN'T YOU?
BUT YESTER-DAY ...
AND EVERY TIME I DID, YOU SHOWED UP.
YOSHIDA...
...VERY HAPPY.

I...LOVE YOU.
TIME'S UP.

HOW COULD GOD DO THIS TO ME?! MY...
...MY THREE YEARS...
I WANT THEM BACK!!
NO!!
I THOUGHT WE HAD ONE MORE DAY... I WON'T SEE HIM EVER AGAIN.
BOOM
KYOKO ...
WHAT ANNOUNCE-MENT?
MR-MR
WHAT DID YOU DO, YOSHIDA?
MR-MR
YOSHIDA, COME FORWARD.
I HAVE AN ANNOUNCE-MENT TO MAKE.
MR-MR
MR-MR
WHAT?
TODAY OF ALL DAYS?
MIYAKE'S ABSENT?

YOSHIDA...
MR MR
...WILL BE SAYING GOODBYE TO US TODAY.
TMP
TMP
KYOKO ...
THERE'S A FRIEND HERE TO SEE YOU.
HSSK

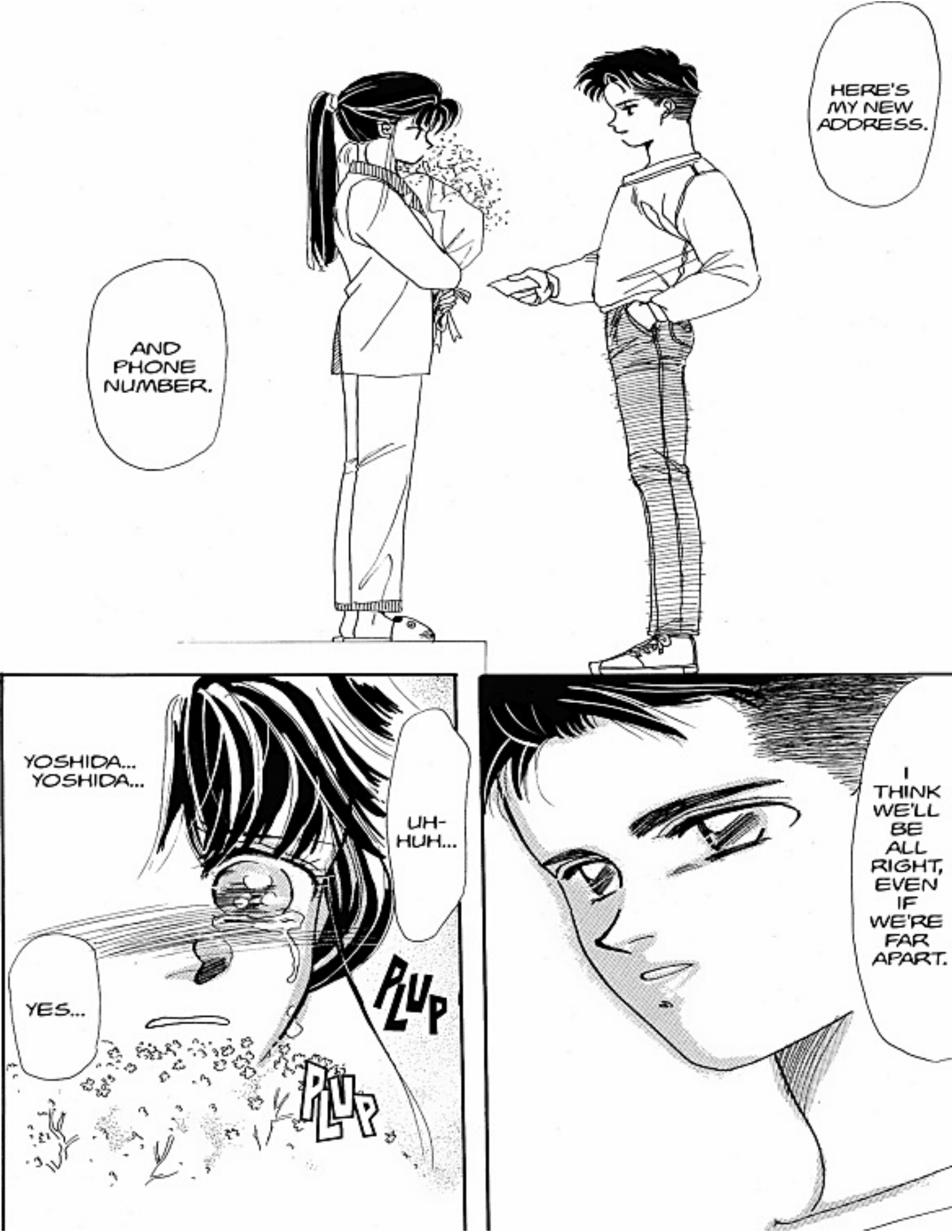
WHO IS IT?
YOU'RE NOT REALLY SICK, ANYWAY.
IF IT'S MY TEACHER, I'M GOING TO BE MAD!!

WHY?
PROBABLY TO WISH YOU WELL. HE HAS A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS.

YOSHIDA?!

HE SAID HIS NAME IS YOSHIDA.
HE'S VERY GOOD-LOOKING... JUST MY TYPE.
LET ME SEE...

SO YOU WERE FAKING.
AH-HA...
!?
FWUSH!
NEVER SEE EACH OTHER? BUT WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN ANYWAY, RIGHT?
DON'T RUN FROM ME. IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, WE MIGHT NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
N-NO... I DID HAVE A FEVER THIS MORNING...
BLUSH


HERE'S MY NEW ADDRESS.
AND PHONE NUMBER.
I THINK WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, EVEN IF WE'RE FAR APART.
UH-HUH...
YOSHIDA... YOSHIDA...
YES...
PLUP
PLUP

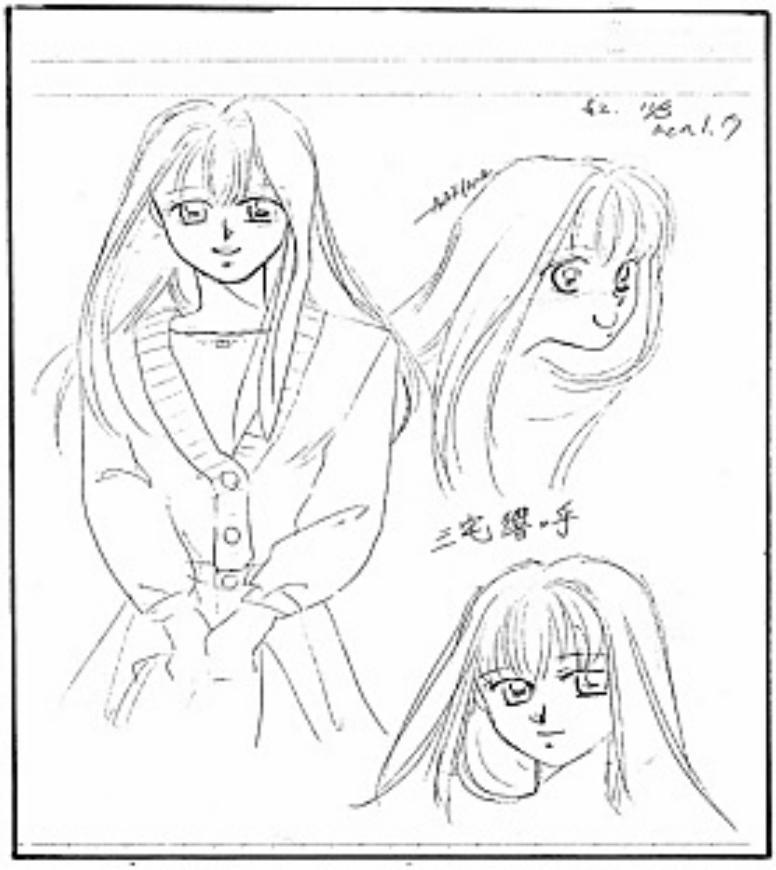
YOU REALLY ARE...
...GOING AWAY?
YOSHIDA ...
SFFP
FROM NOW ON, THERE'S NO TIME LIMIT.
RIGHT.
SNIFF
YOSHIDA...
AND WE STILL HAVE OUR TELEPATHY.
PLP
PLP
PLP
I'LL WRITE.
I'LL EVEN COME AND VISIT YOU SOME-TIMES.
AND I'LL CALL YOU.

TIME LIMIT/THE END

Making of Time limit.

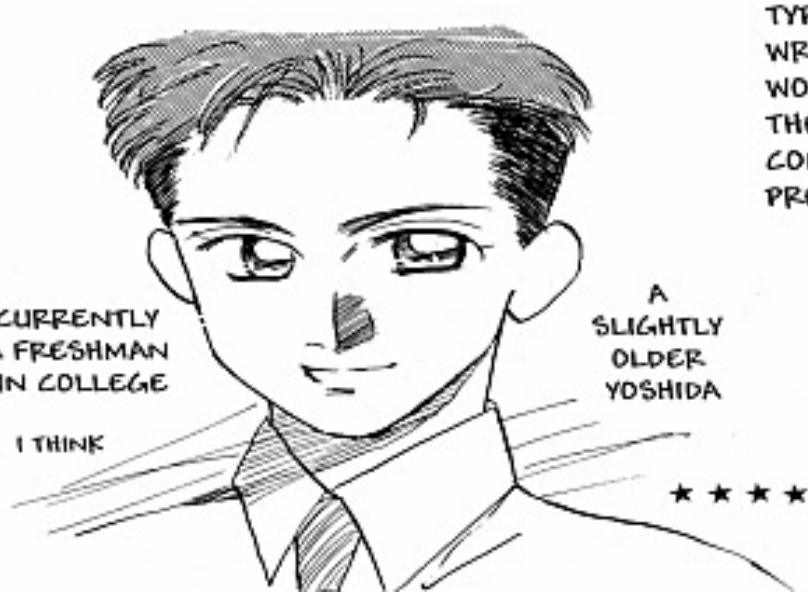
"TIME LIMIT" WAS MY DEBUT PIECE. WHEN I READ IT AGAIN RECENTLY, I THOUGHT IT WAS LAUGHABLY BAD. (NOT THAT MY NEW STUFF IS SO MUCH BETTER...)

BEFORE MY DEBUT, I WAS EATING AT A RESTAURANT WITH MY EDITOR (IT WAS A BUSINESS LUNCH) WHEN TALK TURNED TO WRITING A LOVE STORY. I SAID, "SURE, OKAY," BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT WRITING LOVE STORIES. I'D BEEN WRITING STORIES ABOUT FRIENDS AND FAMILIES, AND COMEDIES, SO I HAD NO IDEA WHERE TO BEGIN WITH A LOVE STORY. INCIDENTALLY, THE AWARD I RECEIVED WAS FOR A LOVE STORY, BUT THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH THE FIRST ONE I'D EVER WRITTEN. SO WHEN I SAW THE STORY LINE THAT DEVELOPED, I THOUGHT IT WAS TOO MELODRAMATIC. IT WAS SO BAD THAT I DEVELOPED A TWITCH IN MY CHEEK. HOWEVER, THE DAY MY EDITOR AND I HAD AGREED WAS AT HAND, SO I PULLED MYSELF TOGETHER AND GAVE HIM "TIME LIMIT." THE EDITOR READ IT AND SAID, "NOT BAD," BUT I WAS SO EMBARRASSED THAT MY HEART WAS POUNDING. A FEW DAYS LATER THEY CALLED ME AND SAID, "WE'RE GOING TO PUBLISH IT IN OUR MAGAZINE." "WHAT?!" I SCREAMED. THIS IS VERY EMBARRASSING FOR ME TO SAY, BUT I WAS A RANK AMATEUR AS A CARTOONIST AT THE TIME. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT KIND OF PAPER TO DRAW MY STORIES ON, SO I BORROWED SOME *FLOWERS AND DREAMS* CARTOON MANUSCRIPT PAPER FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF. MY AWARD-WINNING PIECE HAD BEEN DRAWN ON SKETCH PAPER. I'M SURPRISED THAT *FLOWERS AND DREAMS* GAVE ME THAT AWARD. OH, IT'S ALL SO EMBARRASSING.



SKETCHES OF KYOKO THAT I FOUND AMONG MY NOTES.

AND SO, THOSE WHO READ "TIME LIMIT" SEEMED TO THINK THAT IT WAS TYPICAL OF THE KIND OF STORIES I WRITE, AND WHEN THEY READ MY NEXT WORK, "HANDS OFF MY SECRET BOY!!" THEY WERE SURPRISED. IT SEEMS MY COMICS KEEP CHANGING. BUT I FEEL PRETTY GOOD ABOUT THAT.



BONUS
From NOTE
SKETCHES FROM MY NOTEBOOKS
NI HAO.
I'M OFTEN TOLD THAT I DRAW BETTER IN PENCIL. I AGREE. I CHOSE THESE SKETCHES OUT OF SOME OF MY NOTEBOOKS. I DREW MOST OF THEM WHEN I WAS 17 AND 18. MAYBE SOME OF YOU WON'T BE INTERESTED, BUT I'D WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK.
THE END
HARUMI (TAKUYA'S DAD) WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.

BABY & ME™

Creator: Marimo Ragawa

Date of Birth: September 21

Blood Type: B

Major Works: *Time Limit*, *Baby & Me*, *N.Y. N.Y.*, and *Shanimuni-Go* (Desperately—Go)

Marimo Ragawa first started submitting manga to a comic magazine when she was 12 years old. She kept up her submissions for four years, but to no avail. She decided to submit her work to the magazine *Hana to Yume*, where she received Top Prize in the Monthly Manga Contest as well as an honorable mention (Kasaku) in the magazine's Big Challenge contest. Her first manga was titled *Time Limit*. *Baby & Me* was honored with a Shogakukan Manga Award in 1995 and was spun-off into an anime.

Ragawa's work showcases some very cute and expressive line work along with an incredible ability to depict complex emotions and relationships. Some of her other works include *N.Y. N.Y.* and the tennis manga *Shanimuni-Go*.

Ragawa has two brothers and two sisters.

BABY & ME, Vol. 2
The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

This manga volume contains material that was originally published in English in *Shojo Beat* magazine, December 2005 – April 2006 issues.

Story & Art by
MARIMO RAGAWA

English Adaptation/Lance Caseleman
Translation/JN Productions
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Mark Griffin
Design/Courtney Utt
Editors/Ian Robertson & Pancha Diaz

Managing Editor/Megan Bates
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Vice President & Editor in Chief/Yumi Hoashi
Sr. Director of Acquisitions/Rika Inouye
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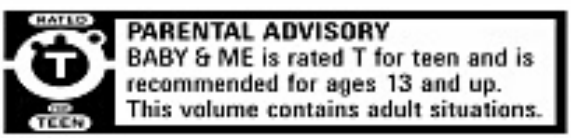
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